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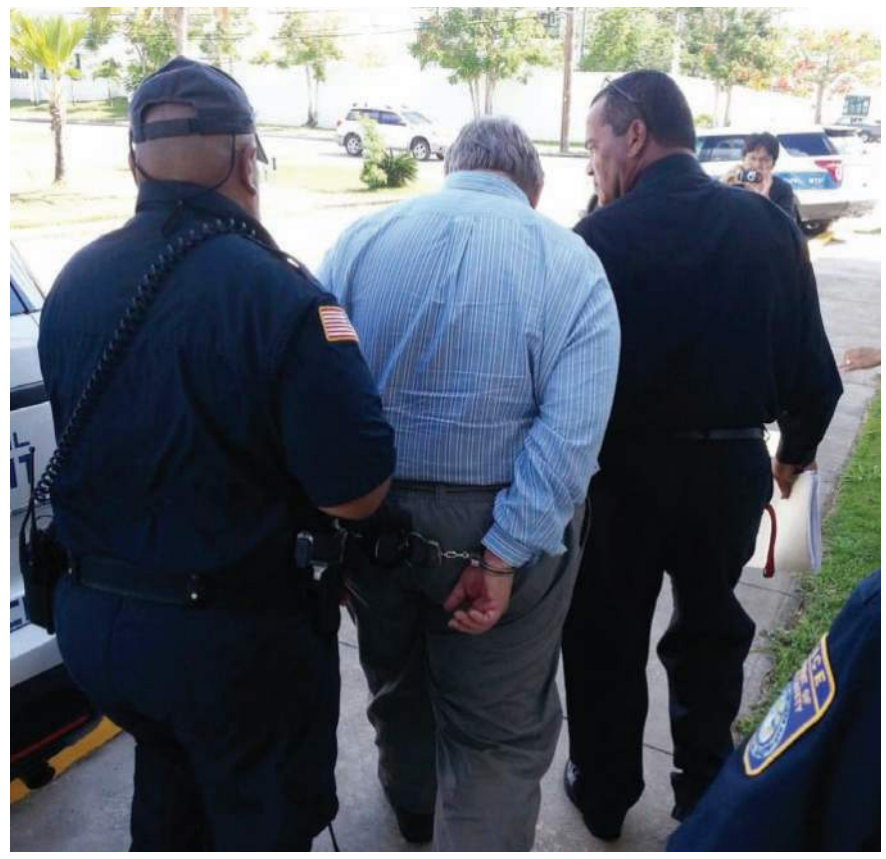
Ex-cop allegedly sexually abused girl inside police station. PAGE 5

Buckingham returns, arrested



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In these photos taken with permission from the Facebook account of KSPN reporter Tina Sablan, former attorney general Edward Buckingham is arrested at the Department of Public Safety yesterday morning after he turned himself in. Other photo shows him being led in handcuffs to a waiting police car that brought him to the Department of Corrections.

» Wiseman rules former AG no longer fugitive, orders his release upon posting $50K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Wearing a striped long-sleeved shirt and rumpled green pants, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham turned himself in to the Department of Public Safety yesterday morning and was subsequently served with an arrest warrant and sent to the Department of Corrections in Susupe in handcuffs.

At 11am, Buckingham was taken before Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman for his initial court appearance. He was not wearing an inmate's jumpsuit.

Buckingham's sudden arrival caught the Office of the Public Auditor and DPS by surprise, as the former AG is reportedly currently facing extradition in Colorado.

"It came as a surprise to me, yes. Be-

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'Let justice take its course'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Edward Buckingham's return to the CNMI yesterday to face charges against him drew a host of reactions from elected officials and concerned citizens but the common threads were: "Let justice take its course," "The CNMI justice works" and "No one is above the law."

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, meanwhile, said that commenting on the matter "could prejudice a defendant's right" but pointed out that the administration is "pleased to see the judicial process working."

"We therefore respectfully decline to comment on the pending

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Kilili: Same CNMI improved status provision sent to US House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that he proposed to the U.S. House of Representatives exactly the same CNMI-specific provision on improved status for long-term aliens that he earlier sent to the U.S. Senate for its sweeping national immigration reform bill set for debate in June.

Sablan confirmed that the language he proposed to the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight" was "exactly the same" as the actual CNMI provision in S. 744.

The landmark bipartisan immigration bill provides a pathway to U.S. citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in America.

"I'm asking for the same language that's in the Senate bill… Generally the same," he said in an interview yesterday.

However, the U.S. House has yet to

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the nomination of attorney Ramona Quichocho to be a Superior Court judge?

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Americans gather to honor fallen service members on Memorial Day.

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The Philippines stands to lose $4.5M monthly in canceled bookings from Taiwan.

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Local

Guintu is overall Mathcourt champion for grades 3-5

» Eucon wins gold in team category

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Overall winners in the PSS Statewide Mathcourt competition pose for a group photo during awarding rites Saturday. They are gold medalist Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, silver medalist Juancho Siasoyco, third placer Tae Yong Kim, fourth placer Sun Kim, and fifth placer Sang Yoon Lee.

Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, a 10-year-old student from Agape Christian School, was named the overall champion in this year's PSS Statewide Mathcourt competition in the third-to-fifth grade division, held Saturday at Dandan Elementary School.

The fourth grade student, son of Maricar and Frederic Guintu, is an active Mathcourt participant since his kindergarten days. This was the second time for the younger Guintu to win the gold medal award in his division. The first was when he was in second grade.

Guintu described Mathcourt as among the competitions he is always excited to take part in every school year.

Mathematics is his favorite subject and he dreams of becoming a Math teacher someday. He said he finds joy and fulfillment each time he thinks and works hard on a math question. He said it also helps develop his self-discipline, patience, and confidence.

Guintu credits his parents for Saturday's success, especially his father who serves as his mentor and coach. He said he and his father diligently prepared for the event for three months.

Hailed silver medalist in the 3rd-5th division this year is Juancho Siasoyco of Eucon International School. He is the son of Menette and Severo Siasoyco.

Named third placer in the division is Tae Yong Kim of Grace Christian Academy while fourth place went to Saipan Community School's Sun Kim. In fifth place is Whispering Palms School's Sang Yoon Lee.

In the team category, the gold medal went to Team Eucon composed of Juancho Siasoyco, Song Song Boem, and Victoria Santos. Second best team honor was awarded to Team Agape Christian School with members Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, Han Jiang, Sarah Wu, and Annie Wang.

The bronze award for the team category went to Team Agape Christian School-Whispering Palms School with members Moses Qui, Angelo Jiang, Rae Min, and Sang Yoon Lee.

According to Reo Arriola, PSS Mathcourt coordinator for the K-5th division, they are very proud of the students' achievements and overwhelmed by the overall turnout this year.

He said they created a Tinian testing site this school year, with three schools competing. This gave these schools equal opportunity to compete, without the cost of flying competitors to Saipan.

"We had a total of about 120 K-5th grade students compete [on] Tinian this year. We are very happy with the overall turnout at this year's competition, and with the addition of Tinian, we feel like we are reaching more students, reaching closer to our goal of promoting the advancement of mathematical knowledge within the CNMI school systems," said Arriola.

He said they would like to get Rota involved but that requires someone stepping up to take on the role as site coordinator.

Saipan Tribune learned that two regular meets and a regional competition were held in both the Tinian and Saipan sites, with a culminating state competition in which competitors from both islands gathered at Dandan Elementary on May 25 to come up with the top team and individual winners.

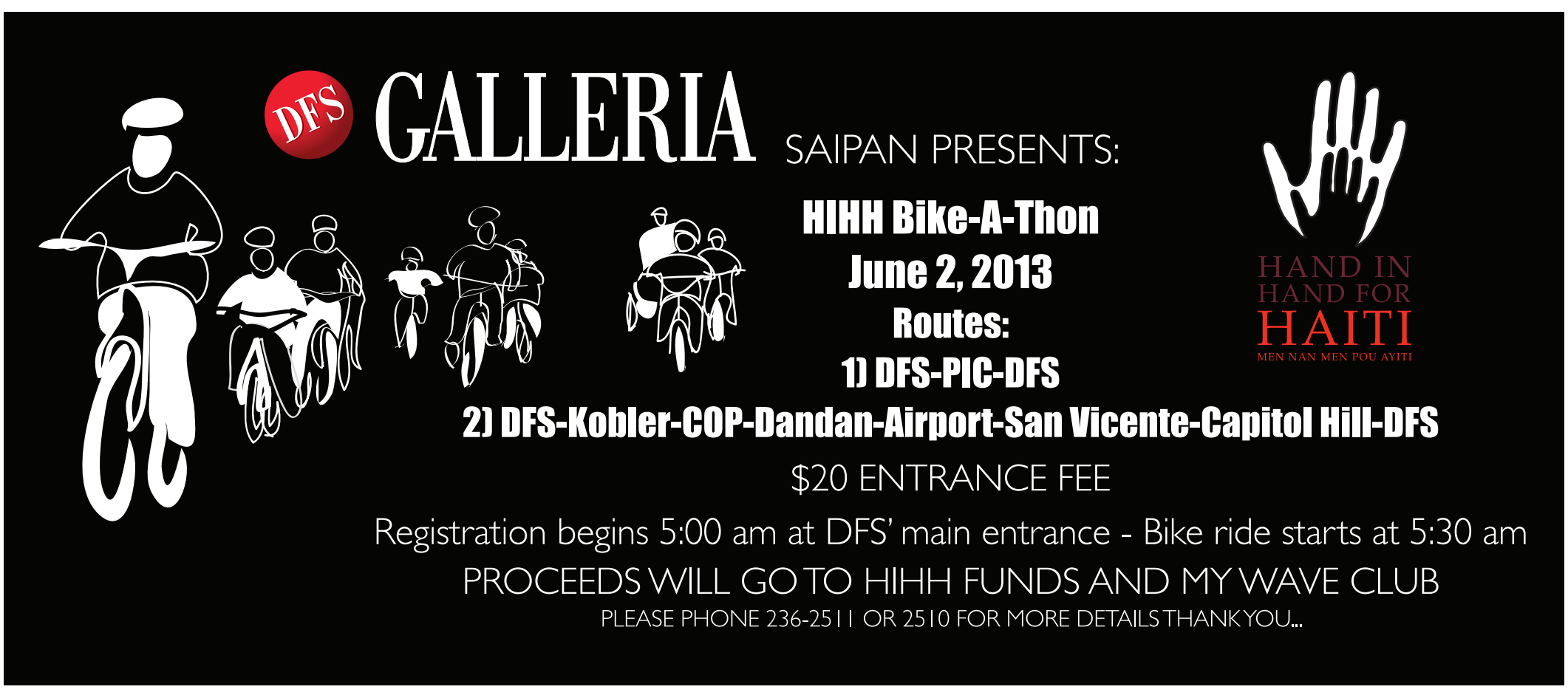
During the two regular meets, over 350 students from 3rd to 5th grades on Saipan and around 55 students on Tinian competed for a spot in the regional competition. Only those who placed during the two regular meets were invited to the regional event.

Arriola said a total of 152 Saipan students and 25 Tinian students competed in the regional competition; the top 17 percent from both sites moved on to the statewide. The top 30 students (26 from Saipan and four from Tinian) competed in the 3-5 division.

"Every year, we run a bigger, more efficient competition, and it isn't possible without the help of the Mathcourt admin team and countless volunteers from each school. We hope to come back again next school year, with more schools involved, and more competitive sets of questions for all to challenge themselves with," Arriola said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Team Eucon emerged the team champion of the Mathcourt competitions this year. In photo are members Juancho Siasoyco, Song Song Boem, and Victoria Santos. The team is joined by volunteers for the competition led by Reo Arriola, the event coordinator.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TOP GUNS
Participants in the team shooting segment of the 2013 Top Gun competition have their picture taken after the recent contest.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Contracts of Podziewski, Lee not renewed at NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., has decided not to renew the employment contracts of two of her most vocal critics—a decision labeled by the Faculty Senate as "clear retaliation."

Newly elected Faculty Senate president Kyle Podziewski and longtime faculty member Larry Lee were issued separate notices yesterday about the non-renewal of their contracts, which both expire in August. Though the two admitted that this is forthcoming, they didn't expect the decision to be this soon.

In separate letters, Hart informed the two that their two-year contracts will not be renewed pursuant to Section 7 of their employment agreement. That section states that if the college intends not to renew a contract, the employee must be given written notice no less than 30 days prior to the end of the contract.

"Today is the last day faculty members are requested to be on campus for the 2012-2013 school year. You are to collect your personal items today and will not be required or permitted to return to the fall 2013 semester. However, pay and benefits will continue [through] your contract term," Hart's letter states.

Admitting he felt sad upon receiving the president's letter yesterday, Lee said that Hart's action is a "clear show of retaliation" against him.

Hart declined to comment on the matter yesterday but said that she will continue to make decisions that she thinks is for the best interest of NMC.

"As in the past, the college does not publicly comment on matters dealing with individual personnel issues. However, I want to emphasize that we will continue to do what is in the best interest of the institution, including making personnel decisions that may not be popular," she said.

Lee spoke against Hart's leadership several times before the Board of Regents. Lee was also among those who gave Hart a no-confidence vote during a faculty assembly in December. The board later declared the vote invalid due to the lack of quorum.

Lee described his work performance at the college as "excellent."

"I've been a dedicated employee for 13 years. I have excellent performance evaluation and excellent evaluation from students. I serve the students in many ways. The president's decision not to renew my contract clearly is a retaliation," Lee said.

He said he was informed that he has to turn in his keys to his office yesterday and will require an escort if he wants to enter the college again after his departure.

"This is the president's way of silencing any constructive criticisms and destroying shared governance at this institution," said Lee.

When asked about his plans, Lee said he is still weighing his options and that includes possibly "fighting the non-renewal."

Lee started working at NMC in 2002 as the college's marketing and public relations manager. He held this position for three years. In 2003, he became a full-time faculty member and was chairperson of the business department for three years. Lee also held for two years the position of Faculty Senate president and served as honorary member of the Board of Regents. At present, he is the adviser of the International Honor Society and the PROA Music Society.

Podziewski confirmed that his letter of non-renewal was hand-delivered by an NMC staffer to his house about 4:50pm yesterday. It notified him that his contract will not be renewed effective May 28.

"This is retaliation and intimidation, plain and simple; with the two of us gone there will be no one left with the guts to speak up," Podziewski told *Saipan Tribune*, believing that he and Lee were the first to be kicked out because they are "the most vocal and outspoken."

Saipan Tribune learned that as soon as Lee's non-renewal was issued yesterday morning, Podziewski held an emergency meeting with faculty senators.

"I am not going to lie down. I think this is disservice to the school of education and disservice to the community," he said.

Podziewski, who was just elected Faculty Senate president last Friday, earlier accused Hart of providing inaccurate information to the accreditation commission.

Podziewski, who was hired from off-island, is the college reading instructor for two years now.

According to Hart, each department and program continuously evaluates its needs, and when a decision not to renew a contract is made, they strive to give as much advance notice as is possible under the circumstances.

"We endeavor to give the departing employee the best chance at seamless employment. Having just completed our 2013 commencement exercises it is time to made decisions affecting our fall 2013 semester, and these decisions may impact staffing at the college," she said.

She assured that NMC will not let anything distract it from its focus on accreditation efforts.

College personnel can be let go with or without cause.

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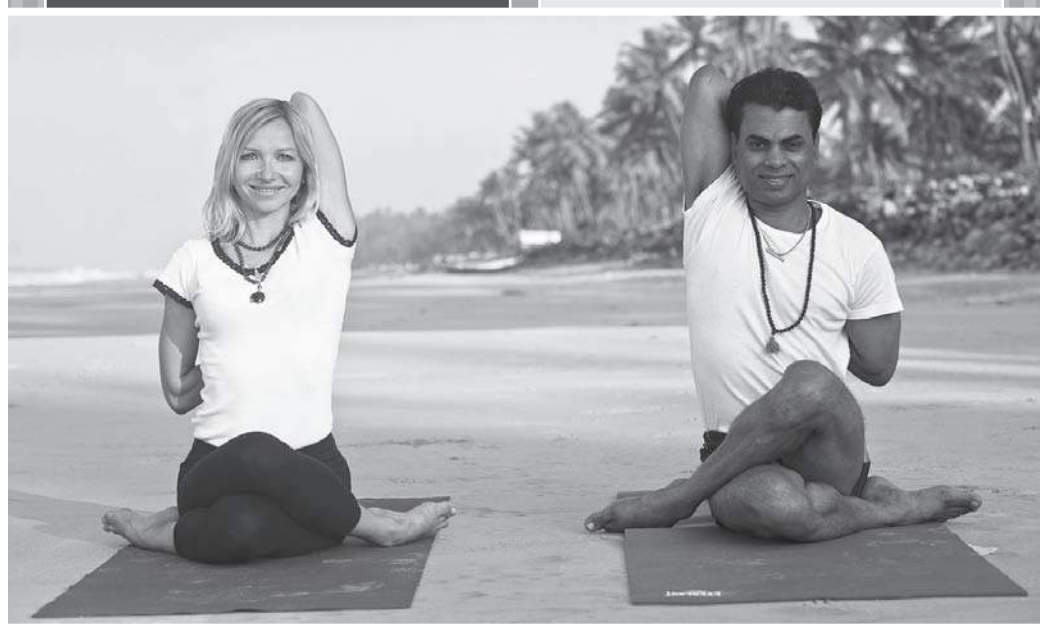

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KILILI

From Page 1

introduce any such comprehensive immigration reform bill. Some members have said the U.S. Senate immigration bill may not see the light of day in the House, and the House is expected to come up with its own version.

The CNMI-specific provision, as proposed by Sablan, allows long-term aliens in the Commonwealth to apply for CNMI-only permanent residency within months of the U.S. Senate bill's passage.

After a five-year waiting period, these aliens can start applying for U.S. permanent residency or "green card," which is a pathway to citizenship.

Sablan pointed out that because the U.S. House has yet to introduce any bill, there is no telling whether the House would include Sablan's proposal for a CNMI-specific provision or whether any such CNMI provision would remain, including the waiting period before long-term aliens could apply for "green card."

The delegate expects a lot of debate on the Senate bill and also on the House bill should it introduce one.

"That's why I've been cautiously optimistic. I'm not going to predict. But saying that they don't have 60 votes doesn't mean that they will not work to get it," he added.

Sablan hopes that a comprehensive immigration reform will be passed.

"The chances this time are much better than it was in 2007 but still it requires a lot of work in the Senate. Then when it gets to the House, it's not known. But the House will pass something, I think whether it includes our language or not it will pass something. If it's comprehensive immigration reform by the Gang of 8 in the House then we will have a language in there," he said.

Dekada president Bonifacio Sagana and Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal founding president Rene Reyes both expressed optimism that this time around, the status of long-term aliens in the CNMI will be addressed in Congress.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee passed S. 744 that retained a provision allowing long-term, legal foreign workers in the CNMI to apply for improved status.

The bill will be up for full Senate debate in early June, less than two years before the end of the federalization transition on Dec. 31, 2014, when the CNMI will be forced to let go of its over 12,000 foreign workers.

That is, unless the transition is extended as pushed for Sablan, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the CNMI House of Representatives, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, among others.

ARRESTED

From Page 1

yond that I don't have more information," said OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback, who has been appointed special prosecutor in the case.

At the hearing, Wiseman said that Buckingham's presence now cures his fugitive status and ordered his temporary release with some conditions upon posting of the $50,000 cash that Buckingham previously deposited in court.

Buckingham, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, waived a formal reading of the charges and advisement of his constitutional rights. He entered a not guilty plea.

Buckingham is charged with one count of use of public supplies, services, time and personnel for campaign activities; one count of use of the name of a government department or agency to campaign and/or express support for a candidate running for public office; six counts of misconduct in public office; one count of failure to produce documents or information; one count of obstructing justice: interference with service of process, one count of theft of services; and one count of conspiracy to commit theft of services.

Buckingham was directed to appear in court for a case management conference on July 2, 2013, at 1:30pm before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Wiseman also vacated the June 5, 2013, hearing on OPA's motion to disqualify Nicholas as counsel for Buckingham. The judge said a new hearing date on all motions will be issued.

Buckingham was required to surrender his passport and is prohibited from leaving Saipan without the court's permission.

In these photos taken with permission from the Facebook account of KSPN reporter Tina Sablan, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham is brought to the Department of Corrections in Susupe yesterday morning. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Before the start of the hearing, a Corrections officer removed Buckingham's handcuff. The former AG was wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt with white stripes, green pants, and brown leather shoes.

Nicholas said that Buckingham arrived yesterday at about 8am at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport where he picked him up.

Nicholas said they proceeded to the office of Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero where at least two police officers later showed up and arrested Buckingham.

Nicholas questioned the arrest considering that Buckingham was already served with the same arrest warrant in Colorado where he was subsequently released upon posting a $25,000 cash bail.

Hasselback said the bail posted in Colorado has no effect here in Superior Court.

He pointed out that among the conditions of Buckingham's bail in Colorado is not to leave the state without the court's permission. It appears that Buckingham basically violated the bail conditions in Colorado, he said. By coming to the CNMI without permission from the Colorado court, Hasselback said that Buckingham is a fugitive from two jurisdictions.

Nicholas pointed out that Buckingham is already here facing the court so he is no longer a fugitive from justice.

Wiseman agreed with Nicholas.

Hasselback said he is only informing the court that among the bail conditions in Colorado is that Buckingham is prohibited from leaving the state without the court's permission.

Hasselback said that Buckingham has a hearing in Colorado on June 10.

Wiseman said he is not looking at the $25,000 cash bail that was posted in Colorado but the $50,000 that the defendant has already deposited in Superior Court.

Wiseman was referring to his order in March 2013 where he rejected the $50,000 cashier's check that Buckingham had posted for his bail. The judge ordered that the $50,000 be held by the court, "which shall consider instructions from the depositor as to its disposition."

Nicholas said the problem is that Buckingham was re-arrested based on the same arrest warrant. He said the bench warrant is moot with the issuance of the arrest warrant.

Hasselback said that Buckingham may be in violation of another court by being on Saipan. "We need something from Colorado as proof that he has permission to come here," Hasselback said.

Wiseman said he is willing to consider if there is proof or documents from Colorado demonstrating that Buckingham has permission to leave.

Nicholas said that Buckingham tried to return to Saipan in February but failed due to his medical problem. He disclosed that Buckingham is under the medical care of a doctor.

Nicholas said that Buckingham should be allowed to return to Colorado where his wife stays and just return to Saipan to attend the hearings.

Wiseman then announced his ruling for Buckingham's release.

"It is clear that Buckingham is no longer a fugitive," he said.

OPA filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Wiseman issued an order declaring Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

Buckingham was recently arrested in Colorado and posted bail.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent served Buckingham with a penal summons at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on Aug. 4, 2012.

JUSTICE

From Page 1

criminal case involving former attorney general Buckingham. We are extremely pleased to see the judicial process working, but we are not going to comment further with respect to the NMI's case," Hofschneider said in response to media requests for comment.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who signed two extradition requests for Buckingham's return, left for Alaska on official business prior to Buckingham's return yesterday.

From Colorado, Buckingham turned himself in yesterday morning at the Department of Public Safety, got arrested, escorted to the corrections building, appeared before a judge, and posted bail.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in an interview at his office, said he is pleased that Buckingham came back voluntarily, which "saves us all a lot of money and trouble."

He said Buckingham is entitled to his day in court, and is considered innocent until proven guilty. Sablan added that the justice system in America works.

Buckingham's return comes nine months after he was declared a fugitive from justice.

Officials said yesterday that Buckingham's return will finally answer questions as to why he and former governor Benigno R. Fitial signed the no-bid $190.8-million power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC and why he fled the CNMI despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor in August 2012.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), for his part, said that Buckingham's return shows "that the CNMI justice system works…so far."

"Let the judicial system take its course on Mr. Buckingham's issues whether on the airport incident or the SDLLC contract," he added.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said, "This is an opportunity to resolve all unanswered questions and concerns regarding SDLLC."

House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) said, "It's a good day for justice."

"Whatever the outcome is, nobody can elude justice. I don't want to chastise him but we have a justice system in place. It's not a perfect system but we have to rely on what we have."

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) separately said the matter is now with the courts, and asked that the public allow the system to take its course.

"Personally I am glad he's back. The issues against him could be addressed in courts. At this point, all we could say is to allow justice to take its source. Whether he came back because of the [OPA] charges or the age discrimination lawsuit against him, at least he's back to face the charges," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Ed Propst, a good governance and anti-corruption advocate, said yesterday that Buckingham's return "speaks volumes for our local judicial system and shows that no one is above the law."

"We have taken a huge step forward and it appears we no longer need to depend on the federal government to prosecute corrupt government officials. I am grateful to Judge Wiseman, the Office of the Public Auditor, brave and independent journalists and news reporters, and of course the good people of the CNMI who stood up against corruption," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Like many others in the community, Propst is "hoping and praying that Ed Buckingham does the right thing, and that he tells the truth."

"In the end, the truth shall set him free, and as my good friend Tina Sablan says, 'it is never too late to do the right thing.' I have no malice in my heart and only wish for justice and not revenge. We are a forgiving people, not a vengeful people," he added.

The Fitial connection

Delegate Sablan said he's pleased that Buckingham "decided to come and answer the several issues—whether it's the civil lawsuit [or] the case before Judge Wiseman."

One of the first controversial issues involving Buckingham was his alleged hosting of a political campaign gathering for former governor Benigno R. Fitial's then delegate candidate running opposite Sablan in 2010.

Almost all the charges against Buckingham also had to do with Fitial—awards of a sole-source ARRA management contract and a no-bid $190 million power purchase agreement, evasion of serving of penal summons, violation of election laws, among other things.

Sablan hopes Fitial will also return to the CNMI.

"I understand the former governor just had surgery. He may need time to recuperate. I'm sure he will be back. I'm sure Governor Fitial will be back to face the courts and clear his name if he can and clear the issues before him… Again, whatever comes out of the decision is with the courts, not with this politician," Sablan said.

The delegate added, "I hope we get to the bottom of all this."

"Mr. Buckingham was the attorney general. He knew the law. If, and this is a big if, if anyone had asked him to do something that was inconsistent with the law then he should have known better and he should have said no. But I am not going to speculate who was telling what, when, and where behind closed doors. That would all come out in court and we must respect the process. Both Mr. Buckingham and former governor Fitial have rights. They're entitled to due process. And they're entitled to a day in court but for Mr. Buckingham who's here now, I must say that I am pleased that he decided to come here voluntarily, save us all a lot of money and trouble," he said.

Sablan added that Buckingham should have not hosted a political campaign "against me."

"I'm a politician. I'm thick-skinned. He should have not done that. He knew that he should not have used government resources for a political campaign. Through an Open Government act, we got those information out and he's been charged… The case is out of my hands. It's up to the special prosecutor and to the courts to decide if Mr. Buckingham did indeed violate law. I think he did but my opinion here doesn't count," the delegate added.

Ex-cop allegedly sexually abused girl inside police station

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho kept the $100,000 cash bail initially imposed on a former Tinian police detective who was arrested on Friday for allegedly sexually abusing a then 14-year-old girl back in 2008.

Former Tinian police officer Melvin Ilo Monkeya, 41, was served with an arrest warrant in Chalan Kanoa and taken to Superior Court for a bail hearing.

According to court papers, Monkeya allegedly sexually assaulted the girl inside his office at the Tinian Department of Public Safety.

If convicted, Monkeya faces 41 and a half years of prison term on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, according to assistant attorney general Chemere McField.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg was appointed as counsel for Monkeya.

Police detective Therese Kintoki stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety's Central Office received a complaint of sexual assault on May 21.

Kintoki said that during their interview with the alleged victim that day, the girl told them that Monkeya sexually assaulted her on Tinian in November 2008.

Monkeya allegedly took the girl to his office at the DPS Tinian building, allegedly to help her with her truant case.

Monkeya allegedly threatened the girl that she will be prosecuted and sent with other juveniles to the Northern Islands.

Saying it is a way to test if a victim in a sexual assault case is telling the truth, Monkeya then allegedly sexually abused the girl.

Monkeya allegedly told her not to tell anyone about the incident.

The girl said that she started having anxiety attacks since then and that she faints whenever she thinks back to the incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ayuyu wants counsel present during fingerprinting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) request to direct the U.S. government to permit his counsel to be present when his fingerprints and palm prints are taken.

In an order Thursday, Manglona said there is no legal authority for the court to compel the U.S. government to allow defense counsel to attend when the prints are taken.

The judge said the taking of fingerprints is not a "critical stage" of the prosecution for which the presence of defense counsel is required by the Sixth Amendment.

Manglona said if the U.S. government is amenable to having Ayuyu's counsel present, the parties are encouraged to coordinate a mutually convenient time for the printing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe filed a motion to compel Ayuyu to submit a set of major case prints (including fingerprints and palm prints) to law enforcement.

Backe said that, according to forensic scientist Andrew Reinholz in his report, the fingerprint standards for Ayuyu and co-defendant Ryan I. Manglona in the fruit bat case were smudged or incompletely rolled, so a comparison could not be made.

Manglona has already pleaded guilty in the case, admitting to helping Ayuyu pack the box that contained deceased Marianas fruit bats.

Backe said that, as reflected in Reinholz's report, clear and completely recorded prints of Ayuyu and Manglona are needed to complete the examination.

Ayuyu did not oppose the motion, but asked the court to direct the prosecution to permit his counsel to be present when the prints are taken.

In her order, Manglona said the U.S. government may compel a defendant to provide prints for identification purposes.

The senator is facing three criminal charges—the fruit bat case, obstruction of justice case, and the cell phone use.

Ayuyu, 48, has been in detention since Dec. 17, 2012.

Salary hike for Rota, Tinian resident dep't heads pushed

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) has pre-filed a bill that would increase the annual maximum salaries of Rota and Tinian resident department heads from $36,000 to $40,800. This increases the cap by up to $4,800 or up to 13 percent.

Santos said these department heads "were never given just compensation for their departmental responsibilities and the increased rate of inflation."

She said previous budget measures corrected the discrepancy by inserting provisions allowing for an annual compensation of resident department heads beyond $36,000 as with the case of Public Law 7-31.

"However, due to legislative oversight, these provisions were omitted from Public Law 15-28, the 2007 CNMI Government Budget Act, in effect demoting resident department heads through a decrease in salary," she said.

Her House Bill 18-78 allows department heads to receive a salary of up to $40,800 a year.

The administration has asked departments and agencies to continue to observe austerity measures and live within their means as the government prioritizes funding the NMI Retirement Fund, public safety, public education and public health. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

7 off to SF for public safety training

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven officials from the CNMI are off to San Francisco, California to join dozen others from at least 10 states and territories for an emergency first responders and public safety training. The trip is federally funded.

The First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, and the National Governors Association are hosting the regional FirstNet State, Territorial, Tribal and Local Consultation Meeting on May 29 and 30 at the Intercontinental Hotel San Francisco.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the meeting will convene state, territorial, tribal, and local policymakers from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI.

Besides Demapan, the other participants from the CNMI are Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman, Gerald Guerrero also from HSEM, Department of Public Safety-Police's Tom Blas, DPS-Fire's Tom Manglona, Commonwealth Ports Authority's Juan Dela Cruz, and Commonwealth Healtcare Corp.'s Warren Villagomez.

Demapan said that Title 6 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 provides funds for the creation of a nationwide network dedicated to public safety.

He said this is a major success for states' efforts to achieve interoperability among first responders and the public safety community.

"The law dramatically changes the future of public safety communications by creating a nationwide broadband network that will allow first responders and other public safety officials to share mission-critical data, and eventually mission-critical voice communications," Demapan added.

The trip is federally funded through the State Local Implementation Grant Program.

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[1] The Annual Percentage Rate of 4.99% is for new approved personal loan applications received 4/28/13 to 6/30/13 with a principal amount of $10,050.00 and a term of 48 months. Loans with other principal amounts ($2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the Annual Percentage Rate could be different. For Guam only, for loan terms greater than 36 months, minimum loan amount is $9,301. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00, which will be added to the principal balance of the loan. For a 48-month loan of $10,050 at 4.99% APR, you will have 48 monthly principal and interest payments of $230.25. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer not available for Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

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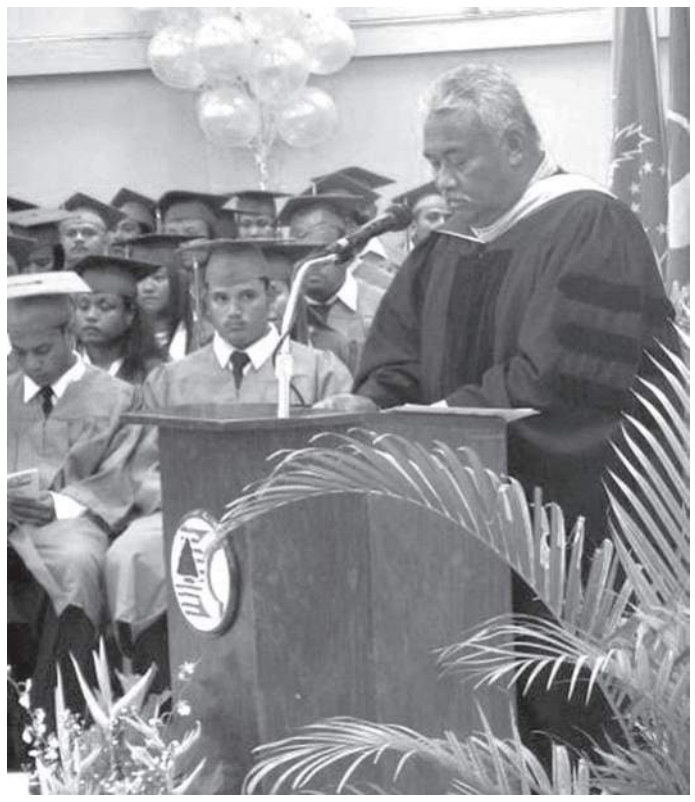
Ongalibang leads PCC's graduating class of 2013

Palau Community College held its 50th Commencement Exercises at the PCC Cafeteria last Friday, May 24, 2013. A total of 132 graduates received their degrees and certificates: 100 PCC graduates, seven PCC & MOH Substance Abuse and Addiction Treatment Counseling Program graduates, and 25 adult high school graduates.

Included in the crowd of proud friends and families were honored guests, ranging from Palauan government officials and educators to the Diplomatic Corps.

The ceremony began with the processional marching in of graduates from the different PCC schools: School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, and School of Technical Education; also included were those who passed the Ministry of Health Substance Abuse & Treatment Counseling Program and graduates of Adult High School.

A rendition of the Palau national anthem, under the direction of associate professor Howard Charles, was then performed by the PCC Music Club. Pastor Hiob Ngirachemoi gave the invocation before Dr. Patrick Tellei, president of PCC, opened with the welcoming remarks. The commencement speaker was then introduced by Summer R. Saunders, student trustee member of the PCC board of trustees.

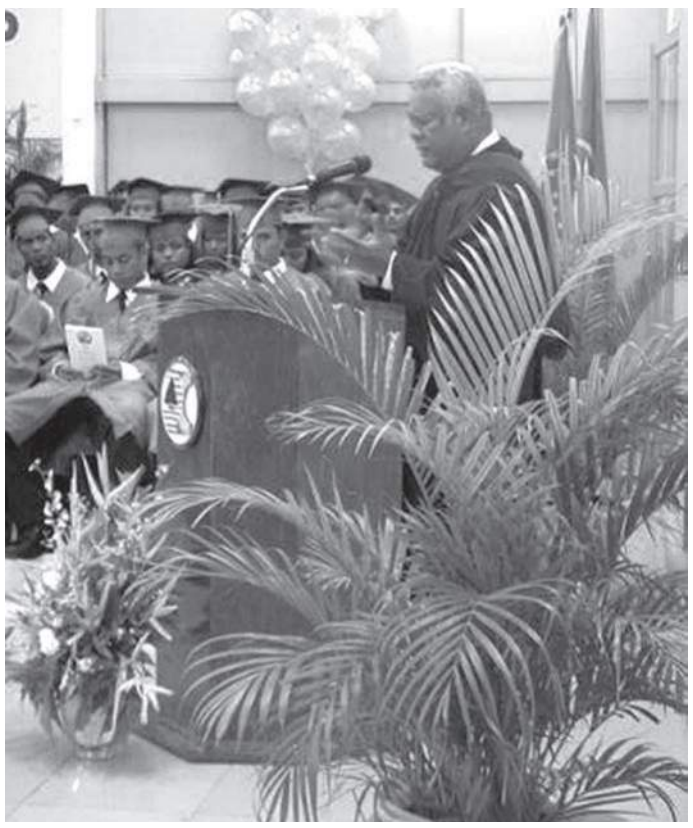


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Patrick Tellei, president of Palau Community College, gives his welcoming remarks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kayleen J. Ongalibang, the valedictorian of the PCC Class of 2013, delivers her address. Ongalibang was also the recipient of the Outstanding Citizenship Award.



Rev. Billy Kuartei, a member of the Palau Community College board of trustees, was given the honor of commencement speaker.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rev. Billy Kuartei was again given the honor of commencement speaker. He had spoken before at the 16th PCC Commencement Exercises to the graduating class of 1979 when he was the vice director of the College of Micronesia's Board of Regents.

Kuartei has had an extensive influence on the growth of Palau. Not only is he an elder pastor of the Koror Evangelical Church, Kuartei is also the chief negotiator for the Compact of Free Association. In the past he has served as school principal for Emmaus High School and Bethania High School, director of the College of Micronesia Board of Regents, political adviser, and Minister of Education. He is also one of the original framers of Palau's Constitution. Kuartei became a member of the PCC board of trustees in 2011.

In his commencement address, Kuartei encouraged the graduating class to live by their passions instead of by the expectations of others, for he has met many people, in his counseling experience, who did not enjoy the work they did. He told the graduating class that they will "eat the sandwich of their own making." In other words, life is a result of their efforts. He also advised the graduates to do their work to the best of their abilities for it will be the basis for their future compliments.

Kuartei emphasized the importance of family and remembering one's roots. Without consideration for humble beginnings, one cannot be thankful for countless blessings. He congratulated the graduates for their efforts, commenting that PCC has done a sincere job in educating them all.

The valedictorian (also the recipient of the Outstanding Citizenship Award) of the PCC Class of 2013 was Kayleen J. Ongalibang. Ongalibang began her studies in Childhood Education in 2008. In 2007, she was employed by PCC. Today, she is an instructor at the Palau Community Action Agency Center in Medalaii.

In her speech, Ongalibang encouraged her fellow graduates to be thankful for all the support they were given, especially at school and at home. She recognized the difficulties that came with life, sharing her personal struggles with being a working mother and a student. Though many challenges came about through the school years, Ongalibang commended each graduate for trying even when failure occurred over and over again. She believed that the graduates were just as qualified as any to inspire others. They did not "have to look for inspiration anymore, [for they had] the potential to make inspiration and contribution" to their society. To her fellow graduates, she advised each to be their own person for it is by being true to themselves that they can be great inspirations.

During the ceremony, Tellei announced the departure of the dean of Academic Affairs, Tutii Chilton. After years of working as an instructor and then a dean at the community college, Chilton has decided to take on a different path. Tellei expressed the school's best wishes to Chilton, promising to always have an open door if ever he wanted to return again.

Robert Ramarui will be the school's temporary dean of Academic Affairs until a permanent replacement can be found.

To commemorate the 50th Commencement Exercises, PCC published and distributed a book that highlights the school's 4,088 graduates from 1970 to 2013. The book also features graduates of the San Diego State University PCC Bachelor and Master Degree Program from 2003 to 2011 (66 masters and 56 bachelors), and graduates of the Fiji School of Medicine in 2006. Copies were provided to guests during the graduation ceremony. The public is informed that copies are available by contacting 488-2470/2471. ***(PCC)***

Wiseman denies OAG's motion to substitute govt for Fitial

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied yesterday the Office of the Attorney General's motion to substitute the CNMI government for former governor Benigno R. Fitial in one of the claims in a lawsuit filed by Rep. Janet U. Maratita and others over an allegedly illegal $190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman said the claim is brought as a taxpayer action and asserts that Fitial, as the former governor, breached his duty of trust by allegedly misapplying public funds.

"Because count three arises out of a violation of the CNMI Constitution, the exclusive remedy rule does not apply and the CNMI government is not a proper substitution for Fitial," the judge said.

The Senate, Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan), and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) sued Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC over the power purchase agreement.

The defendants, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, moved to substitute the CNMI government for Fitial for count three (breach of fiduciary duty) in the five-count complaint, pursuant to the Government Liability Act.

Lochabay attached to the motion a "Certification of Scope of Employment" signed by Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas which certifies that Fitial was acting within the scope of his employment as the governor at the time of the alleged incidents, giving rise to the claims of the plaintiffs in this case.

Maratita and co-plaintiffs, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, asserted that the exclusive remedy rule in the Commonwealth Employees' Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act of 2006 does not apply because count three arises out of a violation of the CNMI Constitution.

Lochabay argued that count three reads like a count in common law breach of trust, which is not a constitutional claim.

Lochabay asserted that if count three is indeed a constitutional claim, then Fitial would be entitled to qualified immunity under the reasoning employed in the pending motion to dismiss of Fitial.

In denying the motion, Wiseman ruled that count three "does not sound in common law breach of trust but rather sounds in a constitutional claim."

Water outage tomorrow in Koblerville

Residents of Koblerville, Tottotville, and Afetna will experience a nine-hour water outage tomorrow, May 30, 2013, from 8 am to 5pm, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. statement yesterday.

CUC said this water outage is meant to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc. to replace non-working gate valves along As Gonno Road and Tinaktak Drive. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to CUC customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

For more information, call project manager Yvonne Cabrera, at (670) 235-7025-30, Ext. 324. ***(CUC)***

Overstaying patient continues to incur hospital expenses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six months after it appealed for the custody transfer of an overstaying Chinese patient at the hospital, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. remains unsuccessful in getting a response from the various people and agencies it has approached.

Corporation interim CEO Esther Muña confirmed this with the board of trustees at its recent meeting, saying that 49-year-old Jing Zhi Quiang, a Chinese national, is still confined at the Commonwealth Health Center and incurring expenses of up to about $600 daily.

It was earlier disclosed that CNMI taxpayers have been footing the bill for the medical care of Zhi Quiang who has been staying at the hospital for almost three years now, incurring over $1.5 million in expenses. The corporation wants to transfer him to the custody of the Chinese government and is seeking payment for his care.

Based on records from CHC's billing and collection division, the corporation has been spending about $1.5 million for Quiang's medical needs—from doctors, to nurses, to medicines and other supplies. The patient is comatose and confined at the hospital's C-ward.

The corporation earlier sought help from Quiang's previous employers on island, the Chinese Association of the CNMI, the Chinese consular office, and even the patient's next of kin, but no one has expressed willingness to help.

At the last board meeting, Muña reported that the Office of the Attorney General is working on the issue but no concrete action or plan has been finalized to date.

Saipan Tribune learned the corporation CEO was appointed by the court as legal guardian for the patient since April 2012 after no one came forward to get him. As legal guardian, the CEO is authorized to make all surrogate medical treatment decisions for the patient.

Quiang was legally employed in the CNMI from July 22, 2004, to July 22, 2005. He was set for deportation but he purposely injured himself at the airport.

Man threatens mom, sister with machete

A probationer is now facing assault charges after he allegedly threatened his mother and sister with a machete on May 25, 2013, at their house in Koblerville.

Abdom Remolor Teregeyo, 36, was brought to the Superior Court on Tuesday for his initial court appearance. His bail was set at $50,000. It was not immediately clear if he managed to post bail. Court records state that he was brought back to the Department of Corrections.

According to police detective Therese S. Kintoki's report, Teregeyo's mother had called his probation officer on May 25, 2013, saying her son was outside the house with a machete and was threatening her and her daughter.

Federal Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg called 911 at once. The Department of Public Safety immediately responded and sent police officers to the Koblerville residence to arrest Teregeyo.

The mother later told police that Teregeyo's anger and threats frightened her and her daughter to the point where they could not sleep while he was around. ***(Reina Perez)***

John Bargfrede, left, and Thomas Thornburgh give short remarks after their respective induction into the Saipan Rotary Club. REINA PEREZ

Rotary inducts two new members

The Saipan Rotary Club inducted two new members at their regular weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

The club welcomed both John Bargfrede, president and CEO of the Bank of Saipan, and Thomas Thornburgh from the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System into the Rotary.

Rotarian Victoria Concepcion pinned Bargfrede while Reina Camacho pinned Thornburgh in place of Curtis Dancoe who is currently off-island.

Bargfrede is actually a returning Rotary member. Originally from Boston, Bargfrede has been with the Bank of Saipan for almost 10 years. His wife and daughter live in Guam as his wife is on active duty with the Guam National Guard.

Thornburgh, who currently works at NMPASI, is also a member of the Autism Society of the CNMI. His wife runs the Sweet Escape, a pastry shop that offers cupcakes, cakes, and many other sweet treats. His son, Mark, is currently studying in a college in Seattle.

Other matters covered by the Saipan Rotary Club meeting was to express support for the Interact Club at Marianas High School, which is the first of its kind on Saipan, and the progress of the distributions of dictionaries in public elementary schools. The next school on the list is Dandan Elementary School. ***(Reina Perez)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DOC-119

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI & GUAM PREMIUM RATE REVIEW HARMONIZATION ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

THE COMPLETE RFP PACKET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. JOHN S. BLANCO, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE RATE REVIEW OFFICE VIA EMAIL TO **cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp** OR BY FAXED TO (670) 664-3067 **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 31, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ JOHN S. BLANCO
RATE REVIEW OFFICE
RATE REVIEW ADMINISTRATOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
IFB NO.: IFB13-HSEM-121 (A - C)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 12, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) VEHICLES (A) – PASSENGER VANS (15-17 CAPACITY) (B) 5 DOORS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (C) 4 DOORS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPS/BSS-126

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 14, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BE COME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

S/ JAMES RABAULIMAN
ACTING COMMANDER, BAGS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPW/ED-117

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 19, 2013 • TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR THE JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETED BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE – STATE ENERGY OFFICE (SEP) LOCATED ON ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITAL HILL, HOUSE NO. 1337, SAIPAN, MP 96950 OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **acjklibrary@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO **acjklibrary@recovery.gov.mp** OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 03, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by June 10, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSION ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND BUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, JUNE 19, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPW/ED-118

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR OFFICES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND BOARD OF PAROLE ON SAIPAN AND TINIAN AGING CENTER ON TINIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETED BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE – STATE ENERGY OFFICE (SEP) LOCATED ON ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITAL HILL, HOUSE NO. 1337, SAIPAN, MP 96950 OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **acdpstinianaging@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO **acdpstinianaging@recovery.gov.mp** OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 03, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by June 10, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSION ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND BUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, JUNE 19, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8
FAX: (670) 322-6536 • TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2013 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, May 31, 2013 from 9:00am-2:00pm at the Annex, PIC. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of March 14, 2013 Minutes
V. Reports
- OVR Director
- SILC Chairman
- CIL Director

VI. Old Business
- Review membership composition
- Review & Adoption of the 2014-2016 SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living)

VII. New Business
- 2013 National Council on Independent Living Conference
- 2014 SILC Congress Highlights

VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

$80,000 in prizes at HANMI golf tourney

Over $80,000 in cash, cars, airline tickets, hotel stays, and other prizes are up for grabs at this Saturday's 12th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Hole-in-one prizes offer this year's golfers a chance for lucrative prizes. Delta Air Lines has donated two round-trip tickets to any Delta destination in the U.S., Asiana Airlines has donated one round-trip ticket to Japan or Korea, and Triple J Motors will put up a 2013 Hyundai Elantra, a $500 Visa gift card, a Cleaveland Iron Set, and a Kindle Fire HD. Cash donations up for grabs will be $20,000 from the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, $20,000 from Century Tours, $10,000 from Pacific Saipan, $5,000 by Century Insurance, and $3,000 from Traders Insurance.

"Everyone knows the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament offers some of the best tournament prizes of the season, thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors. We really hope to have a hole-in-one winner this year," said Golf Committee chair Juko Ishikawa. "But regardless of skill and luck, everyone has a good chance of walking away with some nice prizes at the awards dinner raffle. We invite all golfers to register their spot in the tournament to make the early bird deadline and ensure their spot."

Registration forms are available on the HANMI website at www.saipanhotels.org, and at Mariana Country Club, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. The early bird and Junior Flight registration deadline is today, May 29, at 5pm. Early bird registration is $105 and Junior Flight registration (open to ages 8-16) is $70. The fee increases to $125 after the early bird deadline.

This year's tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet at Pacific Islands Club Saipan at 6pm. The tournament will start at 7am. This year's optional play is an additional $25 and will award cash prizes for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive on select holes. In addition, Titan Imports will award Chivas Magnum (1.5L) and Pacifica Insurance will award $100 cash for nearest to the pin on select par 3 holes.

The tournament features seven categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), Ladies, and Juniors. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-6 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 7-11 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 12-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap 18 and up. Senior category is for ages 55 and up.

First place winners of all flights will receive $300, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finishers will receive $200, a trophy and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel, and third place winners will receive $100, a trophy and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Junior category winners will receive gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Winners for the female and junior golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system. ***(HANMI)***

HANMI

Pacific Saipan general manager and president Michael Busby, second from left, presents a $10,000 hole-in-one prize sponsorship for the 12th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament to be held on June 1, 2013, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The early bird registration deadline is May 29, 2013. Pictured from left are Pacific Saipan's Catherine Licop, Busby, Pacific Saipan's Jocelyn Concepcion, and HANMI Golf Tournament Committee member Das Krishnan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross annual meeting tonight

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting tonight, Wednesday, May 29, 2013, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Rd. All Volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

The night's activities will include the election of voting members of the board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. (Refreshments will be served).

For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 30 from 8am to 4pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is activated north of latitude 12° 00' 00". All vessels are advised to remain clear. W-517 south of latitude 12° 00' 00" is open for normal use/transit.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

DEQ sets sights on Obyan Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Obyan Beach this Saturday, June 1, 2013, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Obyan Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

Last month's Coral Ocean Point Beach cleanup had 26 volunteers from GTC and WSR elementary schools, Hopwood Jr. High, Saipan Southern High, staff from Coral Ocean Point, and other. About 440 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and disposed of.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

MHS Class of 1983 activities

The MHS Class of 1983's 30th year class reunion raffle drawing will be held on Friday, May 31, 2013, 7:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, Civic Center.

The MHS Class of 1983 will also have a general meeting on Friday, May 31, 2013, at 7pm. Anyone interested in buying reunion banquet tickets for the upcoming class reunion on June 22, 2013, can call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 29, 2005

'New fuel contract up by Monday'

The government believes that a new fuel contract with Mobil Oil Marianas would be signed on Monday. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who heads the government negotiating panel, said yesterday that a new contract is needed to ensure the delivery of fuel next week. "We have to finish it by Monday because of the fuel that's coming. It's loaded and it's on its way but we have to have a contract for it to be delivered," said Benavente. Mobil agreed to deliver 1.4 million gallons of fuel to CUC by June 2-the result of initial discussions following Gov. Juan N. Babauta's May 19 state of disaster emergency declaration.

House OKs $500K budget for NMC

The House of Representatives has approved a $500,000 supplemental budget for the Northern Marianas College. The urgent appropriation is needed to allow the financially distressed community college to offer a summer class and to help expand its nursing program. The lower chamber, during its session on May 25, approved House Bill 14-335, which aims to appropriate $208,000 for NMC's summer program and $310,000 for nursing expansion. The bill now goes to the Senate for similar passage. "The nursing program funding need is very urgent. This is the program that we should really be nurturing," said minority leader Arnold I. Palacios, who authored the bill.

May 29, 2006

Japan commits $400M to Pacific islands

NAGO CITY, Okinawa—Amid a growing presence of China in the region, the Japan government committed Saturday to provide members of the Pacific Island Forum a new development assistance package worth 45 billion yen, about $400 million, over the next three years. At the same time, the 16-member states of the Pacific Islands Forum, in a joint declaration with Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the end of a two-day summit here, renewed their support, bilaterally, for Japan's continuing bid to secure a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Koizumi disclosed his government's latest aid package during Saturday's ending of the 4th summit of the Japan-Pacific Island Leaders Meeting held at the scenic Busena Terrace Hotel.

US admiral to lead Memorial Day observance

The commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Navy Region Marianas will be the keynote speaker in today's Memorial Day ceremony in Susupe. Rear Admiral Charles J. Leidig Jr., the U.S. Pacific Defense representatives to Guam, the CNMI, Federal States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau will grace the ceremony at the Susupe Civic Center. Leidig, a decorated naval official, assumed command of U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Navy Region Marianas in June 2005. He came to Guam from Annapolis, Maryland where he served as commandant of the United States Naval Academy.

May 29, 2007

NMI remembers fallen sons

The Commonwealth held a somber Memorial Day at the newly constructed Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, with parents of CNMI soldiers killed in Iraq leading hundreds in honoring these soldiers' memories. This year's Memorial Day held particular meaning for those in attendance, with five sons of the Northern Marianas having given up their lives in the war against terror. In his speech, keynote speaker Sgm. Frank G. Cepeda said people usually wonder what the price of freedom is. "However, we will definitely know the difference if freedom is not around to be enjoyed. Those who died in combat did not die in vain," he said. Cepeda also highlighted the sacrifices that are being made, not just by the soldiers but also by their families. "We have witnessed devastating effects upon the families and friends of our fallen heroes of the Iraq war," he said.

'Expect layoffs, work hour cuts'

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero expects layoffs and work hour reductions to follow the federal wage hike legislation, which will raise the local minimum wage by 50 cents an hour two months from now. Guerrero said the impact of job losses and shorter work hours will offset whatever economic activity will result from the workers' increased buying power. "The wage increase is good for the employees, but bad for the employers. The timing, everything is against us. Fifty cents at 80 hours is $40. Not many businesses will be able to sustain this additional cost.

Island Snapshots

MEMORIAL DAY

REINA PEREZ

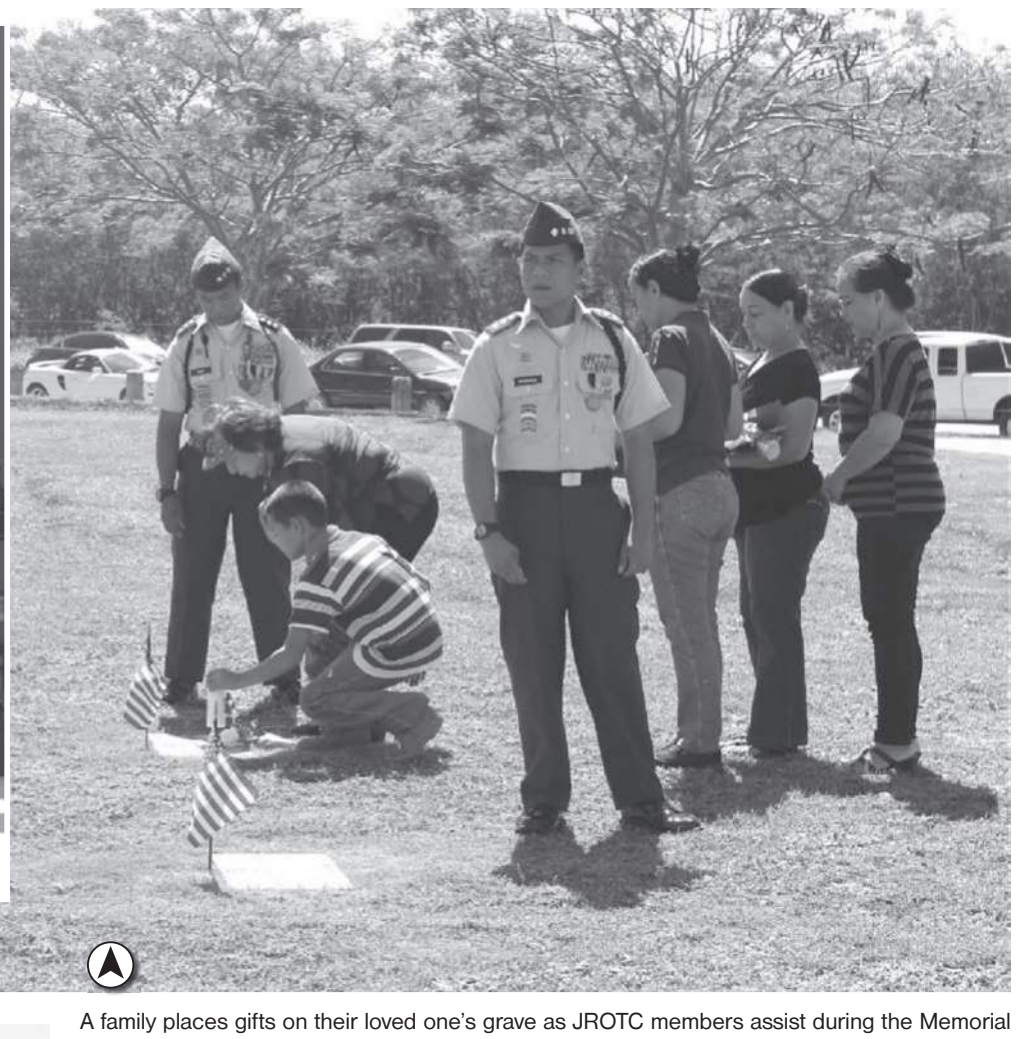
A banner showing the Commonwealth's fallen heroes is displayed at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi during the Memorial Day rites on Monday.

The Color Guard from the JROTC Manta Ray Battalion Saipan Southern High School present the colors during the Memorial Day rites on Monday.

REINA PEREZ

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider opens the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday with welcome remarks.

REINA PEREZ



A family places gifts on their loved one's grave as JROTC members assist during the Memorial Day rites on Monday at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

REINA PEREZ

CONGRATULATIONS!

Grace Christian Academy 4th Grade Consistent Honor Roll awardees, from left, Noah Mesa, Justin del Rosario, and Duane Torres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Caleb Canice Gartharngeg Jr., the son of Caleb and Melissa Taitano Gartharngeg of As Matuis, graduated from Boise State University on May 18, 2013, with a degree in Criminal Justice. He plans to continue his studies for a master's degree at BSU.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulation to Chelsy Luna Reyes on your graduation day, May 29, 2013, from Sister Remedio Early Childhood Development Center-Kindergarten. Greetings coming out from your Dad, Mommy, Grandma, Grandpa, Charlotte, Jack, Kimo, Annie, Pam, Erik, RJ, Tyler, Colin, and, Dave and Claire. We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 13th birthday to Danika Shaye! Wishing you another year of love and happiness! With all our love, Mom, Deion, and family

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A new response in the war on terror

Better late than never, President Obama has moved to establish more rigorous standards for the targeted killings of Americans and foreigners alike away from a battlefield. The need for what he called "strong oversight of all lethal action" was one theme of the president's address Thursday at National Defense University. Another, equally overdue, was his renewed determination to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay and expedite the repatriation of dozens of inmates who have languished there despite being cleared for release.

Beyond these changes in policy, Obama's speech offered tantalizing signals that the president is contemplating a downsizing of what many—but not Obama himself—refer to as the global war on terror. Even as he defended the use of drone strikes and other efforts against "specific networks of violent extremists," the president warned that "a perpetual war—through drones or special forces or troop deployments—will prove self-defeating and alter our country in troubling ways." And he said that he would work with Congress to "refine, and ultimately repeal" the post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force that has served as the legal authority for far-flung attacks on suspected terrorists. All in all, the speech pointed to a major repositioning.

In discussing the use of unmanned drones to kill suspected terrorists—a policy that has cost roughly 3,000 lives in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia—Obama didn't acknowledge that he was changing the rules. But he mentioned that he had signed a document on Wednesday that would allow targeted killings only if a suspect posed a "continuing, imminent threat to Americans" and could not otherwise be captured. There also would have to be "near certainty" that civilians wouldn't be killed. Finally, and perhaps most important, Obama said that "the high threshold that we have set for taking lethal action applies to all potential terrorist targets, regardless of whether or not they are American citizens."

On Guantanamo, Obama said that he would lift an executive branch hold on the repatriation of 59 prisoners from Yemen and indicated that he would press Congress anew to lift other restrictions that have made it impossible to close the facility. He also hinted that he might revisit the decision by an administration task force that more than 40 inmates could be neither put on trial nor released, consigning them to the sort of indefinite detention that Obama has described as "contrary to who we are."

Drones have undermined American diplomacy, and Guantanamo haunts America's global standing today in part because Obama for too long has shied away from a confrontation with Congress over what has become an emblem of overreaction and abuse. His newly muscular language is welcome; even better would be comparably strong action.

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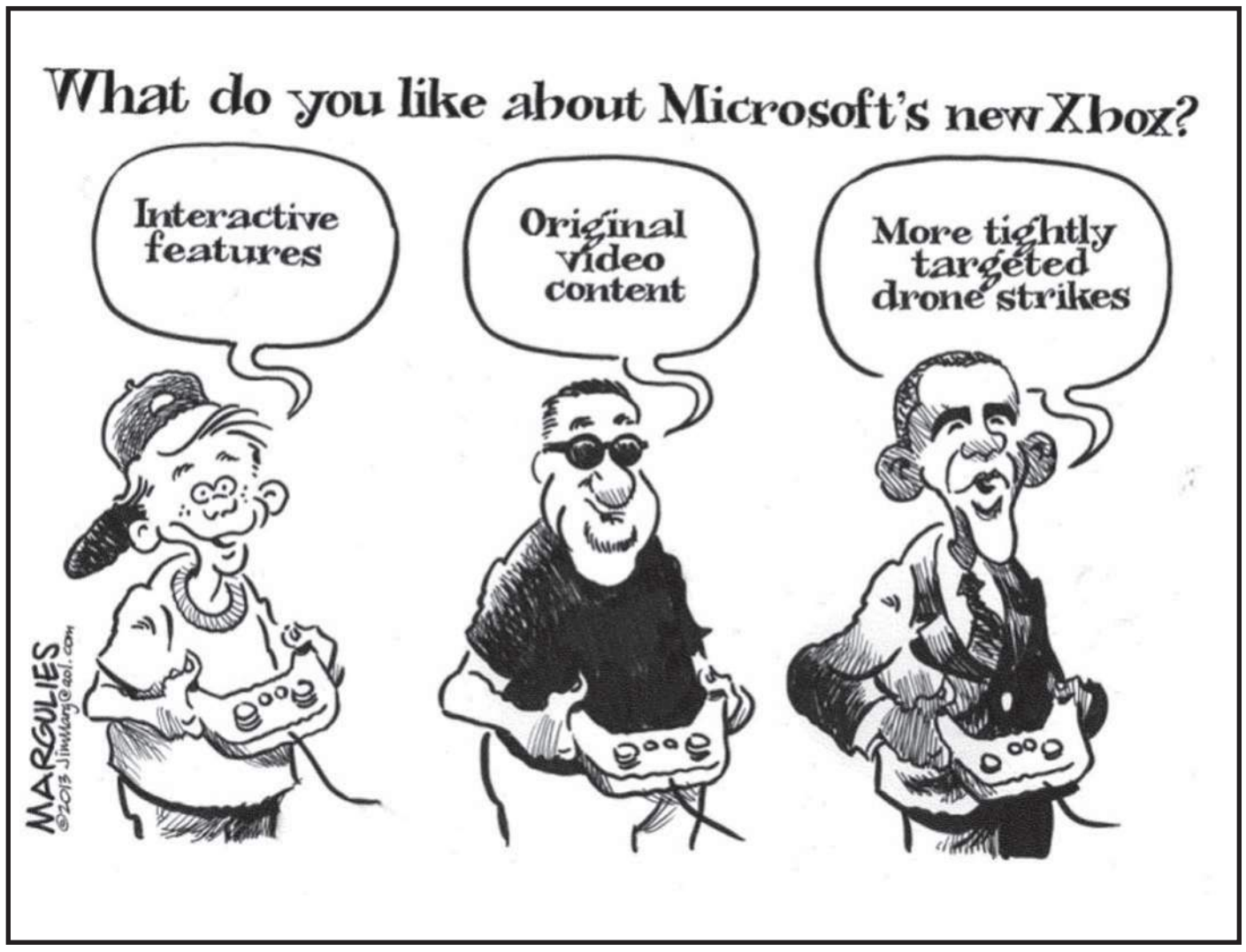


The GOP 'scandals'

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The so-called three Obama scandals outlasted their 15-minutes of fame and, gauging from the intransigence of several GOP personae, they will be around awhile. That's fine. It is in the nature of our chosen democratic discourse that we will protect the right of everyone to say their piece, and the dissent of the governed, after all, is lodged deeply in the democratic psyche.

"Scandal" in current usage is anything that violates moral and/or legal standards causing a general public outrage. Its origin in Middle English is from ecclesiastical *scandalum* in Latin, along with the Greek *skandalon,* a stumbling block, also translated as "sin." That was the Padre taking advantage of a confessing sinner. Today, we use media to fan public outrage.

The GOP points to three major scandals: the IRS auditing of tea party-related non-profit organizations before the 2012 elections, the management of talking points of the Benghazi incident that cost UN Ambassador Susan Rice a top State Department posting, and the FBI's peeking into journalists' contacts in the wake of leaks that distorted news accounts.

It is not because it is a slow day in the press room that we take the "scandals" to task, nor are we willy-nilly dismissing their import on the body politic just because it gets media attention. I do affirm their entertainment value.

Of the accounts I have come across, the IRS audits were allegedly triggered by a sudden increase of diverse anti-tax tea party-related registering NGOs that threatened right wing funding. Though a convenient excuse for IRS officials to explain their acts, it does not justify the auditing of organizations on the basis of their political affiliation. Obama said so in public, though we do not excuse him of accountability.

Making the direct tie to WH pre-election maneuvers has already been discredited. GOP Boehner, however, insists that the dots connect directly to pre-election Obama in his culture of intimidation.

The practice of IRS audit follows from a long tradition of government going after nefarious activities of those whose narrow interest is not deemed consonant to fair practices of the realm. The indictment of Chicago's Al Capone was on tax evasion rather than on his better-known criminal offenses. However, the use of the IRS to tamper with the political process, which does go back to all administrations within the last century, fails any concept of fair democratic practice. A scandal? In the eye of the beholder!

The alleged "massaging" of the Benghazi talking points, noting from loud voices, benefits those who are threatened by the ascent of Hillary Clinton's chances as a serious contender in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Four months into Obama's watch, GOP members are rushing to declare intents to unite anti-tax tea partiers, but not alienate Latinos and women. When a radio talk show can blurt out that Hillary's vagina deserves to be shot on the other side of Benghazi, the message is clearly beyond the *Monologues.*

The serious accusation is on the "talking points" with emails indicating a declared intent to safeguard the assets of all entities involved as a cue to distorting the facts. At the center is the CIA's early account of the 9/11 shooting anniversary as connected to an incendiary film demeaning the Prophet. The torching of the Libyan Consulate facility that led to the death of an ambassador and security escorts was tagged at first as simply a part of the outburst of Islam's followers. Security negligence is now the accusation, covered up in the Benghazi talking points to shield Hillary from incompetence.

We will not go into the privatization of diplomatic security that the country decided to go into since we encouraged commercial entities to take over the responsibility of securing diplomatic premises, but it should be a consideration.

For sure, we should keep Hillary's privates out of the discourse!

We are an opinion writer and do not ever claim to be a practicing journalist. The little academic background we have on journalism makes it clear that the strictures of factual objectivity in reporting require adherence to verifiable integrity. Journalists are not exempt from the rigors of verification, often an in-house preoccupation, but when leaks distort facts, the knowing public also needs to know.

Does government actually intimidate objective reporting? Not in my experience, even in China. But it is fun to whip the whip when one gets the chance. Does interference of the DOJ intimidate the media? In today's reality where media power is considerable—sometimes informal but definitely, real, it no longer needs to. However, it is convenient to say that reporting will be less courageous when journalists feel intimidated.

Still, we do not think the IRS should be an instrument to harass those opposing current administrative views, alas, even to the anarchist who does not see any need for audit at all. For the objecting politicos, we will abide with "those who are without sin *(scandalon)* cast the first stone."

As to the Benghazi brouhaha, welcome to the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.

On intimidated journalists? Bud, you are in the wrong profession!

Big government loses efficacy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

We've basked in the comfort zone of casual behavior (*mañana*), talking—not speaking—about issues that require proactive and critical review in the interest of efficiency and domesticating unbridled spending.

For years we've seen introduction of measures to convert the bicameral 29-member Legislature into a unicameral system comprised of 10 members.

The ink has dried-up, pages wrinkled and dust piled somewhere in a morgue of newspapers. The politicians reintroduce the idea then play possum or "Leave it to Beaver." You wonder why haven't they secured an educated idea and conviction to proactively domesticate the beast.

While revenue generation has declined significantly, we maintain a bicameral system that costs about $4.8 million annually. For what?—more than our share of shortsighted legislation? It's a luxury item we could ill afford, especially today. Hello, anybody home? With a population of less than 56,000 do we really need 29 disoriented policymakers? Unfortunately, the beast has become an institutional monstrosity!

Then we have anywhere between 3,000-4,000 government employees whose view of their jobs is limited to their outmoded white and black television sets. This many employees doing what?—misguided, drone workers peddling incompetency that only delay delivery of public services? Do we deserve this? More importantly, do they deserve our hard-earned tax contributions?

Ever call a government agency for assistance? Wasn't there an instant flash of arrogance from the employee on the other side? I mean these are employees who hardly understand their area of responsibilities. They struggle on the job, hit coffee shops, or simply fail to show up to work yet their loot is fully paid—80 hours biweekly. Call it inefficiency from A-Z!

Call a bank and you receive gratifying common decency and courtesy. Visit them and they'd go out of their way to help you. You do the same at any government agency and you get the complete opposite—disoriented employees second-guessing their jobs with no inkling of the essence of common courtesy.

There's the confused role of three legislative delegations that rob municipal councils of their supposed fiduciary duties. In the end, the pile of duplicative services does nothing but delay and compromise effective delivery of public services. In spite of it all, policymakers embrace the greater comfort of *mañana* rather than promptly resolving the filthy swamp of confusion, disorientation, and frustration.

With a pile of confusion coupled by the persistent feeding of an oversized white elephant in our living room, do we really expect timely resolution of issues? But then is there anybody else you could blame for the obvious inefficiency and deficiency so widespread in government offices? Mediocrity being the obvious mantra, you've done superbly well singing "don't worry, be happy". It's da 'conomy lai, still very bad, remember?

Quick fixing pension program

The pressure to produce quick fixes to alleviate the Retirement Fund's fiscal debacle has triggered suggestions such as harvesting pozzolan, more gambling machines in hotels, and pension obligation bonds as "solutions." It's good sound bites on their face, but are they realistic and lasting solutions?

Fact: Policymakers from both sides of the street have ensured the program is handed its trophy of insolvency over the last 37 years.

Like lethal volcanic magma, policymakers knew the law they approved to absolve the Executive Branch from remitting employer's contribution would eventually torch everything in their presence. Isn't your vote in favor of this law the antecedent that now shows its ugly face at your and all retirees' front door?

Who among you really has the financial and pension expertise to give this issue some sense of realistic solution? You've already proven your inadequacies for 37 years. Do you need another 37 years to finish the job? Why can't you, with a sense of humility, defer the issue to real experts? *Finu' defuntu* Sen. Jesus P. Mafnas, *"Muñga mafa'un' tuñgu' i ti un' tuñgu'!"*

Interesting too the view that if we don't have solutions to offer we should move aside. Well, if we were elected and have taken the oath of office to do what's right, casino won't be our answer. We will deal with it on a realistic basis premised on our cultural affinity with our land and sea!

Admirable, though, a view from a student at the recent AG's Cup contest who said, Plan-A, casino, Plan-B, casino; Plan-C, casino! *A` Saina*! Has this industry improved the revenue generation for Tinian and Rota? Isn't it true that the central government has loaned it thousands of hard-earned taxpayers dollars? Such being the case, is it your infinite wisdom to perpetuate subterranean mediocrity and failure? It's embarrassingly *non sequitur!* True? How about a knowledge-based blueprint? Anybody?

PRO — **AP decision to ban 'offensive words' means banning thoughts as well**

The writer is addressing the question, "Do news organizations hurt free speech when they ban offensive words?"

By MICHAEL GONZALEZ
MCT

Michael Gonzalez is the vice president of communications at The Heritage Foundation.

WASHINGTON—"The decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes," George Orwell wrote in "Politics and the English Language," a prescient 1946 essay that anticipated the political correctness that would befall the English language half a century later.

Sure enough, The Associated Press has banned "Islamic terrorist" and, more recently, "illegal immigrant" from its reporters' vocabulary. Reuters long ago barred the term "terrorist" from its news stories.

Political correctness can of course sap a language of meaning. But there's a higher price to pay. As Orwell observed, the decay of language affects thought, which in turn produces even worse politics.

For example, the forces of political correctness today have made it all but impossible to write the sentence: "The Islamic terrorists were illegal aliens." The subject, "terrorists," is judgmental, they say. And it can never, ever, be used with the qualifier "Islamic."

To be sure, Islamic terrorists have not gone away. But thanks to the arbiters of political correctness, we no longer speak their name, at least not in polite society. Though Islamic terrorists present a clear and present danger, we are denied a concise way to describe them clearly.

Let's turn now to the predicate, "were illegal aliens." The object "aliens" is simply gone, unless you are referring to ET. Back in the 1970s, I carried that word in my wallet—on the "green card" that identified me as a "resident alien." I don't remember ever feeling that the word minimized my existence in any way, yet today it is expunged from our vocabulary when discussing people.

As for the adjective "illegal," that can never be used for people either. Apparently it is now impossible for people to be illegal.

Instead, we learn from our supposed betters that the only acceptable term now is "undocumented immigrants." In making the change, however, we sacrifice meaning and purpose.

For example, the other day I went down to the hardware store to get my wife dishwashing gloves, and suddenly realized that I had left my wallet home. Had I suddenly become an undocumented immigrant? Well, I guess so. I don't think, however, this is what Tulane professor and TV host Melissa Harris-Perry means when she uses the term pm her MSNBC show.

The problem here is that if we don't express ourselves clearly, we don't think clearly and then we can't act with purpose to fix our problems. If we can't ever say that there are Islamic terrorists in the world or people who are in our country illegally then we can't articulate real solutions to these problems—whether efficient or compassionate ones.

At its worst, political correctness becomes totalitarian, not just dictating what words we utter or write, but even our thoughts and actions. Say the wrong thing, and you will be kicked out of your university or job, which means you will find it very difficult to enter another—which means that your entire life has suddenly been changed, and not for the better.

As a result, you will avoid even thinking the wrong thought. It would be suicidal to do so. It's Soviet Russia without the Gulag.

Orwell knew what he was warning us against. After all, he lived through some of the worst isms of the 20th century. He observed that, in his time, some considered abstract words meaningless "and have used this as a pretext for advocating a kind of political quietism. Since you don't know what Fascism is, how can you struggle against Fascism?"

To fight for the good, we must be able to name the bad. As Orwell put it: "To think clearly is a necessary first step toward political regeneration."

CON — **AP ban forces journalists to be more precise; that means better reporting**

The writer is addressing the question, "Do news organizations hurt free speech when they ban offensive words?"

By HANS PETER IBOLD
MCT

Hans Peter Ibold is an assistant professor of journalism at Indiana University.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—From now on, no one will be described in an Associated Press news story as an "illegal immigrant," "illegal alien," "illegal," or as "undocumented."

The AP announced in April that its vaunted Stylebook will not sanction these commonly used terms. Or, for the Tweeters and sound-bite seekers: The AP banned some words.

Hey, that sounds like totalitarian style!

Yes, you should get riled up when such a definitive guide asks its readers not to use terms deemed offensive.

Because it's not just a few newsroom nerds and grammarians who abide by the annually updated Stylebook. Thousands of AP news organizations around the world follow the Stylebook's recommendations. And it's the style of choice for most professional journalists and journalism schools.

If the Stylebook declares a term verboten, then that term pretty much vanishes from the roughly 1,300 U.S. newspapers that cooperatively own the AP, as well as from all stories that adhere to AP style.

Higher-ups at the AP say they intend to rid the Stylebook of all labels. According to the updated entry on illegal immigration, "illegal" and "undocumented" should describe actions, not people. When used to describe people, these terms become inaccurate and imprecise labels, the AP claims.

It's an Orwellian attack on free speech!

The AP isn't compelling journalists to bias their coverage or do less reporting. Instead, by asking journalists to avoid facile labels, the AP is advocating for more precise, contextual reporting.

For example, in its new entry on illegal immigration, the Stylebook suggests that journalists "specify wherever possible how someone entered the country illegally and from where.

Crossed the border? Overstayed a visa? What nationality?" This call for more context would only have a chilling effect on speech in the case of an exceptionally lazy journalist who would resist the extra work. By the way, the Stylebook offers suggestions for the stymied journalist, such as "a person entering or living in a country without legal permission."

More context and the disappearance of terms like "illegal immigrant" could advance the way the American public discusses and thinks about major issues.

But in its "illegal immigrant" decision, the AP caved to activist demands!

Journalist-turned-activist Jose Antonio Vargas jump-started the discussion about the use of "illegal immigrant" as part of an ongoing campaign by his Define American initiative.

So, yes, an activist catalyzed change at the AP and at other news organizations. However, activists like Vargas don't change society alone. It's the merit of their ideas that inspires a critical mass of change-makers. That's how social innovation happens. And journalism needs to innovate.

They're here illegally! They're illegals! End of story!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

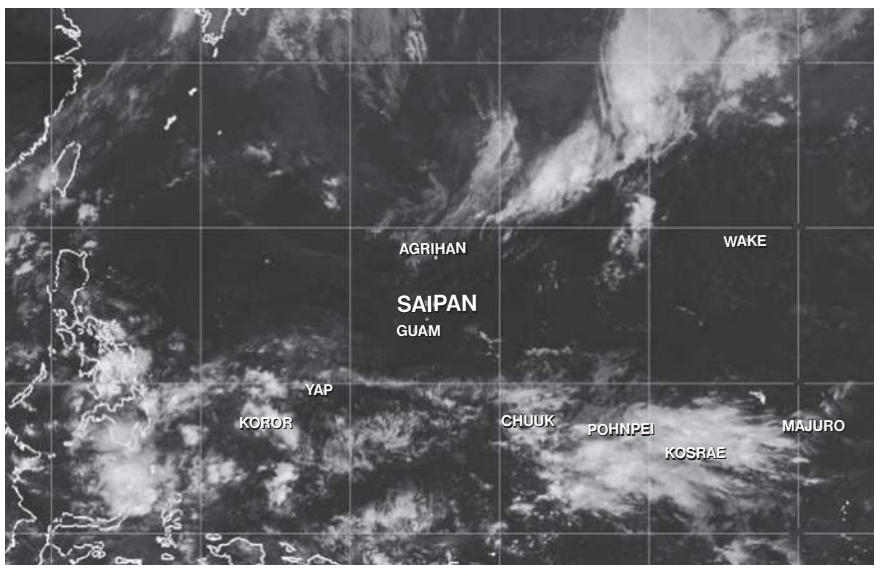
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲93	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Showers	▲58	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼76
New York	Showers	▲66	▼60
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼70
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼48
Pusan	Windy	▲73	▼63
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Salem	Showers	▲63	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲66	▼57
Tokyo	Showers	▲72	▼68
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲82	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N158E to the far northern CNMI at 21N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present along and north of a line to beyond 25N extending from 25N160E to 21N151E. A couple of surface troughs are found over western Micronesia. The first is west of Koror and extends northeast from 5N130E to 8N132E. The second is near Yap and extends from 5N137E to 10N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near Palau west of a line from 10N137E to EQ137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae and south of Chuuk within 180 miles of a line from 4N152E to 6N167E. A surface trough west of Wake Island extends from 16N153E to 20N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen between 17N and 22N from 157E to 160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
6:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:43 PM	9:42 AM
Thursday	11:31 PM	10:41 AM
Friday		11:38 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	12:32 PM
Sunday	12:58 AM	1:24 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Border entry fee study sparks northern opposition

SEATTLE (AP)—By Michael Hill's estimation, 90 percent of the people pumping gas at his station just south of the U.S.-Canada border in Washington state are Canadians.

Gas north of the 49th parallel, he said, is about $1.30 per gallon more expensive than in the United States. But that's not the only product that Canadians seek in visits to Washington state: Beer, wine and milk are significantly cheaper (beer and wine alone are roughly half the price in the U.S.).

Add a strong Canadian dollar and the result is a key element of the economy in the towns of Whatcom County. For example, the town of Blaine, population just shy of 5,000, generates over $225,000 from a penny per gallon gas tax, which is about 30 percent of its street maintenance budget.

That's why Hill and others are troubled by the notion of charging a fee to enter the U.S. by land. Last month, in its 2014 fiscal year budget proposal, the Department of Homeland Security requested permission to study a fee at the nation's land border crossings.

"It's a deterrent," said Hill, whose station is fully stocked with wine and has a reader board that says "Thank you Canadians."

"They should be doing anything they can to get them down here to buy more," he added.

That lone request sparked wide opposition among members of Congress from northern states, who vowed to stop it. A fee, they say, would hurt communities on the border that rely on people, goods and money moving between the U.S. and Canada.

"The imposition of such a toll would act as a barrier to the greater economic integration that we seek, and is the absolute last thing we should be doing to grow our economy," stated a letter sent to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano earlier this month signed by 18 Republican and Democratic House lawmakers.

Democrat U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont is sponsoring an amendment to the immigration reform bill that bars Homeland Security from conducting the study. The senator has also promised to stop any funding for the study. In the House, Democrat Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington state introduced a bill to stop the creation of a fee.

This week an amendment by Democrat Rep. Bill Owens of New York to stop the study was introduced to the House to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Lawmakers and people from the southern border, though, did not show such strong opposition, highlighting a north-south divide on how to pay for border infrastructure.

Democrat Congressman Ruben E. Hinojosa, who represents a district in Texas that includes McAllen and its nearby border region, said fees would be good if the revenue stream is used to improve infrastructure.

"I would support crossing fees only if the funds garnered would be used to upgrade our facilities, provide better equipment for our agents, or used for the hiring of more agents at our border crossings," Hinojosa said.

Currently it costs nothing to enter the country by land. Air and sea crossings already have a fee of under $2, which are included in ticket prices.

The proposal would mean creating a pilot program that tests all the steps needed to create a fee collection—short of actually collecting money. The proposed fee would offset costs of providing border screening and infrastructure. Customs and Border Protection did not specify the cost of the study.

The quick response from northern states lawmakers bolsters the thought that the study won't happen this fiscal year, said Ken Oplinger, president of the Bellingham/Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce in Washington state.

But he thinks that due to the expensive border security measures that have been implemented since Sept. 11, the idea could make a comeback in the future unless other sources of funding not reliant on a border fee appear.

AP

In this Thursday, May 23, 2013 photo, Curt Griffiths, from nearby White Rock, British Columbia, pumps gas at a station in Blaine, Wash. In April 2013, in its 2014 fiscal year budget proposal, the Department of Homeland Security requested permission to study a fee at the nation's land border crossings.

Industry giant GE aims to improve fracking

PITTSBURGH (AP)—One of America's corporate giants is investing billions of dollars in the new boom of oil and gas drilling, or fracking. General Electric Co. is opening a new laboratory in Oklahoma, buying up related companies, and placing a big bet that cutting-edge science will improve profits for clients and reduce the environmental and health effects of the boom.

"We like the oil and gas base because we see the need for resources for a long time to come," said Mark Little, a senior vice president. He said GE did "almost nothing" in oil and gas just over a decade ago but has invested more than $15 billion in the past few years.

GE doesn't drill wells or produce oil or gas, but Little said the complexity of the fracking boom plays into the company strengths. Wells are being drilled horizontally at great depths in a variety of formations all around the country, and that means each location may require different techniques.

There are also big differences in how surrounding communities view the boom. There's been little controversy in traditional oil and gas states such as Oklahoma, but nearby landowners in Pennsylvania, Colorado and other states have complained of environmental and health effects.

"My own view is there things can be managed," Little said of concerns about drilling, adding they need to be managed carefully. He drew a parallel to GE's work with the aircraft industry, since many decades ago flying was considered a risky business, but the industry evolved so that even as the speed, distance and number of flights increased, overall safety improved greatly.

Little also pointed out that GE has significant experience in wind energy, solar, and in nuclear power. "I think the world needs all of these kinds of systems," Little said.

One environmentalist welcomed the news.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US investigating Ford pickups for engine issue

DETROIT (AP)—The federal government is investigating Ford F-150 pickups with EcoBoost engines after drivers reported that the engines lost power during acceleration. The government estimates around 400,000 F-150 pickups from the 2011 through 2013 model years are involved. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received 95 reports of engines losing power during hard acceleration, such as when passing. The incidents often occurred in rainy or humid weather. NHTSA has no reports of crashes or injuries.

Valeant to buy Bausch + Lomb for $8.7B

Canadian drugmaker Valeant Pharmaceuticals said Monday that it will pay $8.7 billion to buy Bausch + Lomb, one of the world's best-known makers of contact lenses, in a massive expansion of Valeant's smaller ophthalmology business. Valeant said the cash deal will help it capitalize on increasing demand for contact lenses and other products because of aging populations, growing demand in emerging markets and increasing rates of diabetes. Complications of the complex blood sugar disorder can damage the eyes over time. Investment firm Warburg Pincus, which leads an investment group that owns Bausch + Lomb, will receive $4.5 billion in cash. The remaining $4.2 billion will be used to repay Bausch + Lomb's debt. ***(AP)***

Oil falls below $94 a barrel after US holiday

BANGKOK (AP)—The price of oil fell below $94 per barrel Tuesday as traders awaited U.S. economic indicators following a long holiday weekend. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down 60 cents to $93.55 per barrel at midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 10 cents to close at $94.15 per barrel on the Nymex on Friday. Monday was a public holiday in the U.S. and Britain. Traders think global energy demand could weaken after a survey by HSBC Corp. released last week showed a decline in China's manufacturing for May. An official report on factory production in the world's second-largest economy will be released later in the week.

Pernod Ricard foresees slower China growth

BEIJING (AP)—Pernod Ricard, owner of Absolut vodka, Martell cognac and Jameson whisky, says explosive sales growth in China is slowing but an expanding urban elite still makes the country one of the most promising markets.

Makers of luxury goods from designer clothes to sparkling wine are looking to China as a key growth market. A cooling economy and a crackdown on the lavish spending of Chinese officials have tempered those hopes. But many brands are launching initiatives to attract new customers.

Pernod Ricard's managing director for China, Con Costandis, told an analysts' conference Tuesday that 2013 has been a year of "converging challenges" that has put pressure on luxury goods companies.

Still, Costandis said, "China is a land of tremendous opportunity."

The expansion of the world's second-largest economy slowed to 7.7 percent in the first three months of the year, prompting forecasters to cut their growth outlooks for the year, though to a still-robust level of about 8 percent.

With that growth and the movement of more Chinese people into cities, the country should add about 10 million newly affluent consumers each year in 2010-2020, according to the company's deputy managing director for China, Horace Ngai.

"We will have a lot more opportunities in more places," said Ngai.

Paris-based Pernod Ricard's roster of brands also includes Chivas Regal and Ballantine's whiskies, Jacob's Creek wines, Seagram's gin and Havana Club rum.

Sales in China increased 27 times over the decade through 2012.

The company hopes to increase its share of China's premium spirits market from 35 percent last year to 40 percent by 2015.

Pernod Ricard has launched initiatives to attract more affluent consumers including offering classes in wine appreciation and other lifestyle guidance, according to Ngai. He said the company has opened its own private club in Beijing.

Nation

Americans gather to honor fallen service members

ATLANTA (AP)—Americans gathered at memorials, museums and monuments and the president laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery to honor fallen service members on Memorial Day, as combat in Afghanistan approaches 12 years and the ranks of World War II veterans dwindle.

"Let us not forget as we gather here today that our nation is still at war," President Barack Obama said after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"When they give their lives, they are still being laid to rest in cemeteries in quiet corners across our country, including here in Arlington," he said. He told the stories of three soldiers who had died. Each had been devoted to their mission and were praised by others for saving lives.

Hours later, veterans from conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan and Iraq gathered in Atlanta to dedicate a new veterans' park. Soldiers, airmen, Marines and seamen looked on as veterans and military family members sprinkled soil, sand and water from battlefields and waterways across the world.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Rick Lester called it "a reminder of our country's timeline of freedom." A 26-year veteran with multiple tours in Vietnam, Germany and Korea, Lester conceived the ceremony as a way to honor living veterans and those who never made it home.

The pilot recalled in detail the numbers of men lost on missions he flew in Vietnam. "All I can think about is how those were some of the greatest guys I ever met and what they would have done for this country once they got back," he said.

AP

President Barack Obama, center, participates in the wreathlaying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns with Maj. Gen. Michael S. Linnington, left, Commander of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, in Arlington, Va

The soil and sand ranged from Revolutionary battlefields like Lexington and Concord to Tikrit in Iraq. There was none from the Civil War, Lester said, because "that was a time that our country was divided."

Battlefield remnants were mixed in a helmet Lester's father wore on D-Day in France in 1944. They were sprinkled from cups that his uncle, a Marine, used in World War II. His father lived. His uncle was killed in action.

Susan Jimison poured water collected from the Hudson River, Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

Her brother, Mark Clotfelter, was a helicopter pilot shot down June 16, 1969, in Vietnam. The 22-year-old was later confirmed dead. Jimison was 14 at the time and recalled how a politically unpopular war affected the way her brother's death was treated. "Nobody talked about it," she said.

It wasn't until many years later that she started trying to learn about his military service and those who served alongside him. Now, she's married to a man, Michael Jimison, who flew with him, and she's writing a book about their company.

Fire breaks out aboard Royal Caribbean cruise ship

BALTIMORE (AP)—A fire that broke out aboard a Royal Caribbean ship Monday did enough damage that the rest of the cruise was canceled and the company said the more than 2,200 passengers will be flown from the Bahamas back to Baltimore where the trip began.

The fire that began at 2:50 a.m. Monday was extinguished about two hours later with no injuries reported. A cause wasn't immediately known. The *Grandeur of the Seas*, which left Baltimore on Friday, never lost power and was able to sail into port in Freeport, Bahamas, Monday afternoon. It had been planned to be a seven-night cruise.

Royal Caribbean said on its website and through social media that executives met with passengers in port and that the cruise line is arranging flights for all 2,224 guests on Tuesday. It said passengers will receive a full refund of their fare and a certificate for a future cruise.

Aboard ship early Monday, the captain announced that passengers needed to go to their muster stations, rousing Mark J. Ormesher from his stateroom. Ormesher said in an email to The Associated Press that immediately after the announcement, his room attendant knocked on the door and told him and his girlfriend to grab their flotation devices. The attendant said it wasn't a drill.

Ormesher, a native of England, who lives in Manassas, Va., said he and his girlfriend smelled acrid smoke as they went to their muster station, the ship's casino. The crew quickly provided instruction.

"This encouraged calm amongst the passengers," he said. Passengers were required to remain at their stations for four hours, he said, and the captain "provided us as much information as we needed to stay safe."

Ormesher, who is 25 and on his first cruise, said the air conditioner had been shut off, and as the hours passed and the ship got hot, bottled water was distributed. The crew and passengers remained calm, and helped those who needed it. Crying babies were given formula and held while their parents used the bathrooms.

In Freeport, Bahamas, passenger Andrea Sanders of Washington, D.C., said she slept on the deck with hundreds of other passengers as smoke billowed out of the stern of the ship. "I was terrified with it being my first cruise," Sanders told The Freeport News as she ate lunch in port.

Royal Caribbean said all guests and 796 crew were safe and accounted for. Royal Caribbean spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez said in an email that the company was arranging 11 different charter flights for passengers. Photos show a substantial area of the stern burned on several decks of the ship the length of about three football fields.

The company in a statement on its website said it is "deeply sorry for this unexpected development in our guests' vacation.

Obama and Christie yet again; emphasis on recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is looking to get his groove back—at the beach.

A post-Hurricane Sandy tour of the New Jersey coast line on Tuesday, gives the president a chance for a three-point play that can move him ahead of the recent controversies that have dogged the White House. With New Jersey's Republican Gov. Chris Christie at Obama's side, effective government, bipartisanship and economic opportunity will be the unmistakable message in the face of the coastal recovery.

For Obama, the tour helps him continue redirecting the political conversation after two weeks of dealing with the fallout over the administration's response to terror attacks last September in Benghazi, Libya, the targeting of conservative groups by the Internal Revenue Service and the Justice Department's review of journalist phone records as part of a leak investigation.

The visit occurs as Congress is away for a Memorial Day holiday break, a weeklong recess that likely will silence the daily attention lawmakers, particularly Republicans, had been paying to the three political upheavals. It also comes just days after Obama started seeking to change the subject in Washington with a speech defending his controversial program of strikes by unmanned drones and renewing his push to close the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention facility.

On Sunday Obama traveled to Oklahoma to view damage from the recent tornado and console victims of the deadly storm.

For Christie, the president's appearance is yet another way to showcase his beloved Jersey Shore. The Republican has been touting it throughout the Memorial Day weekend as a destination point that is back in business and he broke a Guinness World record Friday by cutting a 5.5 mile ceremonial ribbon that symbolically tied together some of the hardest-hit towns by Sandy. The state has a $25 million marketing campaign to highlight the shore's resurgence in time for the summer season.

Both men will reprise the remarkable bipartisan tableau they offered during Sandy's immediate aftermath when Obama flew to New Jersey just days before the election to witness the storm's wreckage. Politically, the visit plays well for both men. Christie, seeking re-election this year, will stand shoulder to shoulder with a president popular among Democrats in a Democratic leaning state. And Obama, dueling with congressional Republicans on a number of fronts, gets to display common cause with a popular GOP stalwart. (Obama has not scheduled any face time with state Sen. Barbara Buono, Christie's likely Democratic opponent in the governor's race).

ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: Man shoots daughter with 3 kids in home

OROSI, Calif. (AP)—A California man shot his two adult daughters on Monday, killing one and critically injuring the other before apparently committing suicide while his three young grandchildren were in the home, authorities said. An 8-year-old girl called to report gunfire before dawn, and deputies arrived to find 63-year-old Anthony Alvarez dead from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. Jennifer Kimble, 37, was found dead from multiple gunshot wounds. She was the daughter of Alvarez and the mother of the three children in the home—two boys ages 13 and 11, and the 8-year-old girl.

Officials: Gunman in Texas rampage was Marine

EDEN, Texas (AP)—A man suspected in a West Texas shooting rampage that left one woman dead and five others wounded was a Marine who was wanted for questioning in a slaying in North Carolina, officials said Monday. The rampage Sunday morning ended when Esteban J. Smith, 23, of the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, N.C., died in a gunfight with an agency trooper and a state game warden, said Tom Vinger, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Six others were shot, one fatally, in the pre-dawn rampage across West Texas' rolling plains, Vinger said in a statement issued Monday.

Man charged with raping toddler is sex offender

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A man who has been charged with killing an elderly Alaska couple and raping their 2-year-old great-granddaughter is a registered sex offender convicted of breaking into a home and assaulting an 11-year-old girl four years ago. Jerry Andrew Active, 24, was convicted in 2010 of assaulting the girl near Dillingham, Alaska, while her family slept. Authorities say that on Saturday, Active broke into the apartment home of Touch Chea, 71, and his wife Sorn Sreap, 73, and beat the couple to death. He also raped Sreap, police said. He was still inside the residence when their grandson, his pregnant wife and son arrived. The grandson, Von Seng, fought Active, but the assailant managed to flee. He was arrested nearby only wearing boxer shorts, authorities said.

Asia

Taiwanese cancel trips to PH over row

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine tourism officials said they stand to lose $4.5 million monthly in canceled bookings and charter flights from Taiwan as a result of a diplomatic row over the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman.

Most of the cancelations have hit the popular beach resort of Boracay in the central Philippines, where Taiwanese visitors are the second largest group after South Koreans. In 2012, more than 90,000 Taiwanese visited the island.

The shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman by the Philippine coast guard on May 9 has led Taiwan's government to freeze the hiring of Filipino workers and discourage travel.

The Department of Tourism said in reports published Tuesday that at least 43 flights from May 20 to June 30 between Taiwan and Kalibo International Airport serving Boracay have been canceled.

Local budget carrier Zest Air Inc., which is partly owned by Philippines' AirAsia Inc., confirmed last week that it temporarily suspended its daily charter service between Kalibo and Taipei at the request of the charter agent.

"The unfortunate death of the Taiwanese fisherman is currently under investigation by both governments of the Philippines and Taiwan. It is our hope that a resolution is reached at the soonest possible time," Zest Air said in a statement.

Philippine Airlines, the country's flag carrier, and Cebu Pacific continue to operate regular flights between Taiwan and the Philippines.

Taiwan also has cut trade and sports exchanges with the Philippines.

The Chinese Taipei Basketball Association has written to its Philippine counterpart saying it would be prudent for the Philippines not to participate in this year's Jones Cup tournament in July, said Sonny Barrios, executive director of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Barrios said that the Taiwanese organizers could not guarantee the safety of the Philippine team.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has apologized, calling the fisherman's death "unintentional" and promised a quick investigation. The Taiwanese government insists the killing was intentional and demanded punishment and compensation.

Taiwanese investigators returned to Manila on Monday after initially complaining of lack of cooperation. Taiwan also allowed Philippine officials to conduct their parallel investigation in Taiwan.

AP

Protesters flash peace signs as they picket Taiwan's Taipei Economic and Cultural Office at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday May 22, 2013, urging both governments to show restraint in the current diplomatic row following the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman by the Philippine Coast Guard on May 9.

Fighting season is testing ground for Afghan force

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Abdul Malik and his fellow Afghan soldiers were driving across the arid and volatile south when their armored personnel carrier struck a roadside bomb. Malik found himself outside the vehicle, dazed but aware of his three comrades nearby. One had a serious head wound.

Help came quickly: U.S. helicopters swooped in and took them to the Afghan military hospital in Kandahar, the largest in the region. Malik lost his leg below the knee. Without the quick rescue, he would likely have lost his life. His three buddies all died.

"I could see his brains on the ground near me," Malik said.

As part of preparations for the final withdrawal of international combat troops by the end of 2014, Afghanistan's security forces are being pressed into service—alone. This year's fighting season is the first in 12 years of war that Afghan troops are responsible for security in 90 percent of the country.

But the Afghans are still heavily dependent on international air support to ferry the wounded to hospitals and for gunships to defend troops who are isolated and under attack.

With NATO and the U.S. military providing only advice and assistance on request, the Afghans' battlefield performance this year will decide how much equipment and training they still need.

After 2014 the U.S. is expected to leave behind a residual force of 8,000 to 10,000 troops, mostly as mentors and trainers. NATO is being asked to contribute several thousand as well, but so far only Germany has promised 800 troops.

Some in the U.S. military see a steep learning curve ahead for the 350,000 Afghan service personnel.

In eastern Nangarhar province where the U.S. 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne division, is advising the Afghan National Army, Lt. Col. Matthew Stader said Afghan troops need advisory teams for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. They lack the drones used heavily by U.S. forces.

Still, Stader said Afghan troops are doing their own patrols, clearing routes and removing roadside bombs.

Suu Kyi opposes 2-child limit for Myanmar minority

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and Islamic leaders expressed dismay over decisions by authorities in western Myanmar to restore a two-child limit on a Muslim minority group, a policy that does not apply to Buddhists and follows accusations of "ethnic cleansing."

The order makes Myanmar perhaps the only country in the world to level such a restriction against a particular religious group, and is likely to bring further criticism that Muslims are being discriminated against in the Buddhist-majority country. Some Buddhists, however, welcomed the plan for addressing their fear of a population explosion among the Muslim minority known as Rohingya.

Authorities in strife-torn Rakhine state said this past weekend that they were restoring a measure imposed during past military rule that banned Rohingya families from having more than two children. Details about the policy and how it will be enforced have not been released, sparking calls for clarity and concerns of more discrimination against a group the U.N. calls one of the world's most persecuted people.

"If true, this is against the law," said Suu Kyi, the opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Suu Kyi has faced criticism for failing to defend the Rohingya following two waves of deadly sectarian violence last year. She told reporters Monday that she had not heard details of the latest measure but, if it exists, "It is discriminatory and also violates human rights."

The policy applies to two Rakhine townships that border Bangladesh and have the highest Muslim populations in the state. The townships, Buthidaung and Maungdaw, are about 95 percent Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims account for only about 4 percent of Myanmar's roughly 60 million people.

The central government has not made any statement about the two-child policy since Rakhine state authorities quietly enacted the measure a week ago. Calls seeking comment from government spokesmen were not returned.

Longstanding antipathy toward the Rohingya erupted last year into mob violence in which Rakhine Buddhists armed with machetes razed thousands of Muslim homes, leaving hundreds of people dead and forcing 125,000 to flee, mostly Muslims. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch has accused the government and security forces in Rakhine of fomenting an organized campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the Rohingya, who are regarded as aliens.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea says SKoreans can re-enter Kaesong complex

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says South Korean businessmen can enter a jointly run industrial park in the North that has been emptied since April after tensions between the two countries soared. In a statement carried by the North's official media on Tuesday, the government agency in charge of relations with Seoul said Pyongyang is ready to talk about reopening the Kaesong complex if the business owners visit. South Korea's Unification Ministry urged North Korea to have talks with the government not civilians. It had no further comment.

Rescuers save a newborn from sewer pipe in China

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say firefighters and medics have rescued a newborn boy from a sewer pipe below a squat toilet. The state-run news site Zhejiang News says a tenant heard the baby's cries in the public restroom of a residential building in eastern China's Puijian county Saturday and notified authorities. Firefighters removed an L-shaped section of the pipe—about 10 centimeters (3 inches) in diameter—and rushed it to a hospital where it was dismantled and the baby was treated. Video footage of the rescue was broadcast nationally overnight.

Japan vows to tighten nuke safety after accident

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is pledging tighter nuclear safety after an accident at an atomic research facility exposed 33 people to minor excess radiation, though none were injured. Education Minister Hakubun Shimomura, whose agency oversees such research, said Tuesday the government will tighten oversight of such research. He criticized a "low level of safety awareness" at the facility in Tokaimura, north of Tokyo. Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority had rated last week's accident as "Level 1," or third from the lowest level on a 9-level international scale.

World

Bombs tear through Iraqi capital, killing over 60

BAGHDAD (AP)—A coordinated wave of car bombings tore through mostly Shiite areas of Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 66 people and maiming nearly 200 as insurgents step up the bloodshed roiling Iraq.

The attacks in markets and other areas frequented by civilians are the latest sign of a rapid deterioration in security as sectarian tensions are exacerbated by anti-government protests and the war in neighboring Syria grinds on.

More than 450 people have been killed across Iraq in May. Most of the killings came over the past two weeks in the most sustained wave of violence since U.S. troops left in December 2011.

The surge in attacks is reminiscent of the sectarian carnage that pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007. April was Iraq's deadliest month since June 2008, according to a United Nations tally that put last month's death toll at more than 700.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Monday's bombings, but they bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida's Iraqi arm. The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq, frequently uses car bombs and coordinated blasts against Shiites to undermine Iraqis' confidence in the Shiite-led government.

AP

Iraqis gather at the scene of a car bomb attack at a used cars dealers parking lot in Habibiya neighborhood of eastern Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, May 27, 2013.

The day's deadliest attack happened when two bombs exploded in the eastern Habibiya area on the edge of the sprawling Shiite district of Sadr City. Those blasts killed 12 and wounded 35, police said.

Twin blasts also struck an open-air market in the predominantly Shiite al-Maalif area, killing six and wounding 12.

Another car bomb exploded in the busy commercial Sadoun Street in downtown Baghdad. It killed five civilians and wounded 14, police said. Among the wounded were four policemen who were at a nearby checkpoint.

The central street is one of the capital's main commercial areas and is lined with clinics, pharmacies and shops. Firefighters were seen struggling to extinguish flames as police sealed off the area. Several shops were partially damaged or burned.

''What crime have those innocent people committed?" asked witness Zein al-Abidin. "Who is responsible for these massacres?"

Elsewhere across the bloodied capital city, police reported:

■ A car bomb went off in the eastern New Baghdad area as officers were waiting for explosives experts to dismantle it. A civilian was killed and nine others wounded.

■ In the north, a blast in the Sabi al-Boor neighborhood killed eight civilians and wounded 26. In the Kazimiyah district, a car bomb blew up near a bus and taxi stop, killing four and wounding 11.

■ Another blast killed four and wounded nine in the Shaab area. And an attack in the Hurriyah neighborhood left five dead and 14 wounded.

■ A bomb in the southwestern neighborhood of Bayaa killed six civilians and wounded 16.

■ In Baghdad's central Sadria area, a car bomb killed three civilians and wounded 11.

■ In the east, a blast killed five and wounded 12 in the Jisr Diyala area. Car bombs also struck the Baladiyat neighborhood, killing four and wounding 11.

■ And in Madain, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of central Baghdad, a car bomb killed three and wounded nine.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information.

McCain makes surprise trip to visit Syrian rebels

WASHINGTON (AP)—Leaders of Syria's opposition forces got a chance to make their case for increased U.S. support directly with Sen. John McCain when he slipped into that country for a surprise visit.

McCain, R-Ariz., favors providing arms to rebel forces in Syria.

A State Department official said the department was aware of McCain crossing into Syrian territory Monday, but referred further questions to McCain's office.

McCain spokeswoman Rachel Dean confirmed the Monday trip, but declined further comment.

The visit took place at the same time as meetings in Paris involving efforts to secure participation of Syria's fractured opposition in an international peace conference in Geneva.

And in Brussels, the European Union decided late Monday to lift the arms embargo on the Syrian opposition while maintaining all other sanctions against President Bashar Assad's regime after June 1, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said.

Two years of violence in Syria have killed more than 70,000 people, according to the United Nations. President Barack Obama has demanded that Assad leave power, while Russia has stood by Syria, its closest ally in the Arab world.

McCain has been a fierce critic of Obama administration policy there while stopping short of backing U.S. ground troops in Syria, but he supports aggressive military steps against the Assad regime.

Gen. Salem Idris, chief of the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army, accompanied McCain across the Turkey-Syria border. McCain met with leaders of the Free Syrian Army from across the country, who asked him for increased U.S. support, including heavy weapons, a no-fly zone, and airstrikes on Syrian government and Hezbollah forces, according to The Daily Beast, which first reported the senator's visit.

Such unannounced trips to world hotspots by U.S. politicians are not common.

The White House declined to comment late Monday.

Last week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to provide weapons to rebels in Syria, as well as military training to vetted rebel groups and sanctions against anyone who sells oil or transfers arms to the Assad regime. McCain is a member of the committee.

US, Russia discuss peace plan as Syria worsens

PARIS (AP)—The top U.S. and Russian diplomats met Monday to try to accelerate frustratingly slow peace efforts in Syria, where the signs point only to a worsening conflict.

Capping off an eight-day trip to the Middle East and Africa, Secretary of State John Kerry flew into the French capital to see Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and exchange updates on their respective diplomatic efforts.

The United States and its Arab allies are attempting to secure the participation of Syria's fractured opposition at an international peace conference in Geneva, planned for next month. Russia is pledging to deliver Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime to the talks.

But despite claims of progress by both powers, there is little evidence to suggest either side in Syria is ready to halt more than two years of violence that has killed more than 70,000 people. President Barack Obama has demanded that Assad leave power; Russia has stood by its closest ally in the Arab world.

Kerry said the U.S. and Russia each are committed to starting a political transition that "would allow the people of Syria to decide the future of Syria."

"We are committed to this," Kerry told reporters upon conclusion of the meeting. "We both want to make this conference happen, if possible, together with many other countries that will join up."

"It is our hope that we will come out of here with greater clarity about some of the issues that need to be worked on in the days ahead," he added.

Lavrov suggested much work remains if any peace conference is going to make headway, calling it a "very tall order." He also signaled continued disagreement between Washington and Moscow on the participants at the conference, saying it should include more interested parties than previous diplomatic gatherings. It was an apparent reference to Iran, which the United States and the Syrian opposition don't want to see involved in any negotiation.

The one-on-one Paris meeting between Kerry and Lavrov, to be immediately followed by a dinner that includes French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, occurred as Sen. John McCain slipped into Syria Monday to meet with rebels, and at an increasingly dangerous time for the country.

For the past week, regime troops and allies from Lebanon's Hezbollah—and even some Iranian fighters—have waged an offensive in Qusair, gaining ground against the rebels behind intense bombardments of the strategic western Syria town.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali sets date for presidential election in July

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Mali's government announced on Monday that much-anticipated presidential elections will be held July 28, in a communique that set the dates for the campaign period and a runoff election. The move suggests that the West African country is serious about holding the ballot, despite the fact that the capital of one of the country's northern provinces remains under the control of a rebel group. The ballot would be the first since a coup in March 2012 ousted Mali's democratically elected president just months before he was due to step down at the end of his final term in office. The coup plunged the country into chaos, creating an opening which allowed extremist groups allied with al-Qaida to seize Mali's northern half.

Costa Rica: Digital currency site founder arrested

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—The founder of the Liberty Reserve digital currency business has been arrested in Spain on money-laundering charges, Costa Rican authorities said. Officials in the Central American nation said in a statement that Arthur Budovsky was detained as part of an investigation that also involved U.S. authorities. Police raided three homes and five businesses linked to the Costa Rica-based Liberty Reserve and seized papers and digital documents that will be turned over to U.S. authorities, the statement said. A Russian citizen was also arrested in the case in Costa Rica on Friday and will be extradited to the U.S., it said.

Focus

AP

This Dec. 13, 2012 file photo shows labels of garments made in Bangladesh, India, China and Pakistan, that were purchased at a Wal-Mart store in Atlanta.

Leaving Bangladesh?
Not an easy choice for brands

By JONATHAN FAHEY and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—Bangladesh offers the global garment industry something unique: Millions of workers who quickly churn out huge amounts of well-made underwear, jeans and T-shirts for the lowest wages in the world.

But since a building collapse April 24 killed at least 1,100 garment workers in Bangladesh in one of the deadliest industrial tragedies in history, the country has gone from one of the industry's greatest assets to one of its biggest liabilities.

"The risk factors have jumped off the charts," said Julie Hughes, president of the U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel, a trade group that represents retailers who import garments. "This is worse than what anyone had imagined."

Working conditions in Bangladesh's garment industry long have been known to be grim, a result of government corruption, desperation for jobs, and industry indifference. But the scale of this tragedy has raised alarm among executives and customers.

The Facebook pages of Joe Fresh, Mango and Benetton, a few of the brands whose clothing or production documents were found in the rubble of the collapsed building, are peppered with angry comments from shoppers. Some warn they're going to shop elsewhere now.

Retailers are also facing street protests. In the U.S., university chapters of United Students Against Sweatshops are helping to stage demonstrations against Gap in more than a dozen cities including Seattle, Los Angeles and New York. The group plans to target other retailers it believes are not committed to stricter standards for Bangladeshi factories.

The rising death toll may force Western brands to make a choice: Stay and work to improve conditions. Or leave and face higher costs, similar or worse worker conditions in other low-wage countries and criticism for abandoning a poor nation where per-capita income is just $1,940 per year.

Most retailers have vowed to stay and promised to work for change. Wal-Mart and the Swedish retailer H&M, the top two producers of clothing in Bangladesh, have said they have no plans to leave. Other big chains such as The Children's Place, Mango, J.C. Penney, Gap, Benetton and Sears have said the same.

"Today's economy is global, and it is not a question of if a company like H&M should be present in developing countries," said Anna Eriksson, an H&M spokeswoman. "It is a question of how we do it."

But for some, the risk of being in Bangladesh has become too great. The Walt Disney Co. announced this month that it is stopping production of its branded goods in Bangladesh.

"These are complicated global issues, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution," Bob Chapek, president of Disney Consumer Products, said in a statement.

Industry experts predict others will quietly reduce their dependence on the country.

"Almost everybody is going to cut back on what they are sourcing from Bangladesh," Hughes said. "Not today, but by a year from now our imports are going to fall. The question is how much."

But it's not easy for retailers who make their clothes in Bangladesh to simply leave.

There is no shortage of cheap labor or available garment factories around the world. But it takes months or even years to establish relationships with new factories that retailers can trust to turn out large volumes of garments to their specifications on time.

Even if retailers move their business to other low-cost countries, they still face threats to their reputations.

Of the major garment-manufacturing countries, Bangladesh's working conditions pose the highest risk to brands, according to Maplecroft, a risk analysis firm based in Bath, England. But Bangladesh ranks somewhat better than many low-cost countries on other labor issues, such as child labor and forced labor.

According to Maplecroft's Labor Rights and Protection Index, which measures the overall risk of association with violations of labor rights, Bangladesh is the 17th-riskiest country in the world—and less risky than such garment-producing leaders as China, Pakistan, Indonesia and India.

Another reason it's hard for retailers to leave is that Bangladesh is one of the few places in the world that has enough workers, manufacturing capacity and experience to provide what retailers demand: High volume, low prices, good quality and predictable service.

The garment industry in Bangladesh is the third-biggest exporter of clothes in the world, after China and Italy. There are 5,000 factories in the country and 3.6 million garment workers. Manufacturers have easy access to cheap raw materials, and the country's political situation has been relatively stable.

And its garment workers command the lowest wages—by far—in the world. The average worker in Bangladesh earns the equivalent of 24 cents an hour, compared with 45 cents in Cambodia, 52 cents in Pakistan, 53 cents in Vietnam and $1.26 in China, according to the Worker Rights Consortium, a worker advocacy group.

On Sunday a Bangladesh cabinet minister said the government plans to raise the minimum wage for garment workers, and a new minimum wage board will issue recommendations within three months.

Between 15 and 25 percent of the wholesale cost of a garment is for labor. Unlike raw material costs, which can vary, labor is the only major cost that retailers can control.

"It's a country built for commodity products," said Janet Fox, who arranged garment manufacturing overseas for J.C. Penney and Under Armour and now works as a consultant. "It's not a highly skilled labor force, but they can make the basics."

Bangladesh has long been a major garment producer, but in recent years its production has soared.

For decades, the global garment trade was controlled with a quota system called the Multi Fibre Arrangement that limited production from developing countries to protect higher-wage workers in developed countries.

When the system ended in 2005, retailers flocked to Bangladesh because of its low wages. Manufacturers scrambled to increase the size of their factories.

Land is scarce in Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries. It packs 163 million people, about half the population of the U.S., into an area about the size of the state of Iowa. So the Bangladesh government, desperate to boost employment, looked the other way as companies converted unsuitable buildings into factories or crammed far too many workers and equipment into small spaces, creating fire hazards, labor activists say.

Since 2005, at least 1,800 workers have been killed in the Bangladeshi garment industry in factory fires and building collapses, according to research by the advocacy group International Labor Rights Forum.

In November, 112 workers were killed in a garment factory in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital. The factory lacked emergency exits, and its owner said only three floors of the eight-story building were legally built. Clothes destined for Disney, Wal-Mart and Sears were found among the building's remains, though Disney has denied its suppliers used the factory.

But as horrific as that fire was, it wasn't as bad as the April 24 collapse, the garment industry's worst disaster. The eight-story Rana Plaza building housing five garment factories collapsed 15 miles north of Dhaka at the beginning of a workday.

The building wasn't designed to hold factories, and three stories had been added illegally. Most of the victims were crushed by massive blocks of concrete and mortar falling on them.

Then as the death toll was climbing, a fire broke out at a sweater manufacturer Wednesday in Dhaka, killing eight people including a senior police officer, a Bangladeshi politician and a top clothing industrial official.

Only a few companies, including Britain's Primark and Canada's Loblaw Inc., which owns the Joe Fresh clothing line, have acknowledged that suppliers were making clothes for them at the Rana Plaza site and have promised to compensate workers and their families. Loblaw's CEO said suppliers were making clothes for as many as 30 brands and retailers at the site.

Benetton labels were found at the site, and the Italian fashion brand acknowledged that one of its suppliers had used one of the factories. The company said that before the collapse, the factory had been removed from its list of approved factories.

Mango, whose production documents were found in the ruins, has said it was planning to produce there but hadn't started.

Clothing retailers often depend on a web of contractors and sub-contractors to produce goods for them. Fabric will be made at one factory, buttons at another, and the item will be sewn together somewhere else. Large orders are often placed with one contractor, who then farms out the work to several smaller factories.

Retailers said they have strict standards that they require their suppliers to follow, but they know little or nothing about conditions at individual factories that make their clothes because there are so many of them.

But retailers are very familiar with the general conditions in the countries where they do business, and their importance to local economies means they can push for improvements. Labor groups and other activists have said last month's tragedy is just the most extreme evidence that brands haven't done nearly enough to protect workers.

The retail industry hasn't released estimates on how much it would cost to upgrade Bangladeshi factories to Western standards. But the Worker Rights Consortium puts the cost at $1.5 billion to $3 billion. If the money was spent over five years, it would be 1.5 to 3 percent of the $95 billion expected to be spent on clothes manufacturing over that time. Put another way, it's 10 cents added onto the cost of a T-shirt.

There are limits to what companies can do to improve conditions, though, said Matthew Amengual, a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management who studies labor regulation and enforcement in developing countries. "Companies have a very important role to play, but they can't do it just by auditing their supply chain," he said.

The collapse of the factory in Bangladesh showed how safety issues in the country are in some ways too ingrained and complex for companies to monitor and change. It is much easier for a company to push for more fire extinguishers or make sure fire exits aren't locked than to judge the structural integrity of thousands of factories.

Experts said if big retailers and the Bangladesh government don't work together to improve standards and enforce them, more production will gradually move out of the country.

"There are huge risks to stay if there isn't any progress," said the Rev. David Schilling, of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of shareholders that pushes companies to be more socially responsible.

Disney, which has said that less than 1 percent of the factories used by its contractors operate in Bangladesh, said it has told all its suppliers to stop production in the country by the end of March 2014. The company also said it would reconsider its decision if conditions improve.

Others have taken a different approach.

In the wake of the November fire, Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, toughened its policies with suppliers. In January, it said that it would cut ties with any factory that failed an inspection, instead of first issuing a warning.

Last month, Wal-Mart said it will be tying some of the compensation of some executives, including CEO Mike Duke, to the success of its compliance program.

Forty garment buyers, including Wal-Mart, H&M, and J.C. Penney, met with labor rights groups on April 29 in Germany to discuss how the industry could improve safety conditions in Bangladesh.

The labor groups are setting Wednesday as the deadline for brands to sign up to a legally binding plan that would require retailers to pay for needed safety improvements and allow independent inspections of the clothing factories in Bangladesh.

Only two companies—PVH, the parent company of such brands as Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, and Tchibo, a German retailer—have signed up to the plan. Gap was close to signing last fall but then backed out and announced its own plan that included hiring an independent fire safety expert to inspect factories.

Adding to the pressure on retailers, Avaaz, a human rights group with 21 million members worldwide, has garnered more than 900,000 signatures on a petition pushing Gap and H&M to commit to the proposal.

"We would rather see companies stay in Bangladesh to compel and fund the renovations that are necessary to turn these deathtraps into safe buildings," said Scott Nova, executive director at the Worker Rights Consortium.

Campus Life

‘Spellbound’ star reflects on a Spelling Bee life

By JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Of the 85 kids who have won the U.S. National Spelling Bee, only one became an instant movie star.

For the millions who watched back in 1999, her face is frozen in time. She’ll always be the 14-year-old girl from Florida with the glasses and dark shoulder-length hair, her arms raised while leaping for joy.

But that was a half-life ago for Nupur Lala. Like all bee winners, she’s since had to deal with the perks, drawbacks and stereotypes that come with the title—all magnified because she won the same year the competition was featured in an Oscar-nominated documentary.

She became a role model for those who realized it’s OK to be nerdy. She became a trend-setter, starting a run in which 10 of 14 national bee winners have been Indian-American, including the last five.

Today, she’s 28 and finishing up a master’s degree in cancer biology with plans to enroll in the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, having changed course from a career plan that had her researching memory and the brain for three years at MIT. She now aspires to be a physician scientist.

“My intellectual inspirations are so meandering. I blame that on the Spelling Bee sometimes,” Lala said with a laugh. “There are so many interesting things in the dictionary to study.”

Lala will be watching this week when the 86th Scripps National Spelling Bee takes place near the U.S. capital—her friends tease that her life “shuts down” during the bee—but she’ll see a spectacle that’s changed much since she graced the stage. The finals are now broadcast in prime time. A vocabulary test is being added this year for the first time. And the bee’s popularity has skyrocketed, in part because of Lala and the other spellers featured in the documentary “Spellbound,” a film that made smart people cool long before the hit TV show “The Big Bang Theory.”

“I’m amazed at the sea change,” Lala said in a telephone interview. “Because when I was a speller, that was one thing you totally hid. I remember like not even wanting to tell people what I was doing over the weekend when I was competing in the regional spelling bee. It was that big of a liability. And now I see that, yeah, people want to be nerds. I think that’s great.”

Lala is the first to say that winning the national bee has been an overwhelming positive in her life, even if does get tiresome to have people repeatedly asking her to spell her winning word—”logorrhea”—or to realize that her reputation can unfairly put her on a pedestal in an academic setting.

“I’ve had people say ‘I expect more of you because I’ve seen what you are capable of,’” Lala said. “And that’s a huge honor—and also very daunting.”

Then there’s another set of emotions she feels every year when her name is mentioned by the Indian-Americans youngsters who now dominate the national bee. All of the recent winners, to some degree, have cited Lala as an inspiration.

“It’s absolutely overwhelming,” she said. “And I think especially as I’ve grown older and seeing how much I’ve wanted to emulate people in my life. Yeah, it’s very humbling every time I hear that. It feels like a lot of responsibility, to be perfectly honest. You become very conscious of that.”

There have also been a disproportionate number of recent winners interested in the brain and medicine, including several who said they wanted to grow up to be neurosurgeons. Lala pursued an undergraduate degree in brain, behavior and cognitive sciences at the University of Michigan, in part because of her experiences from the bee.

“Why do I remember certain words and not others? Why isn’t my memory so good for everything else?” she said. “That question sort of drew me into research.”

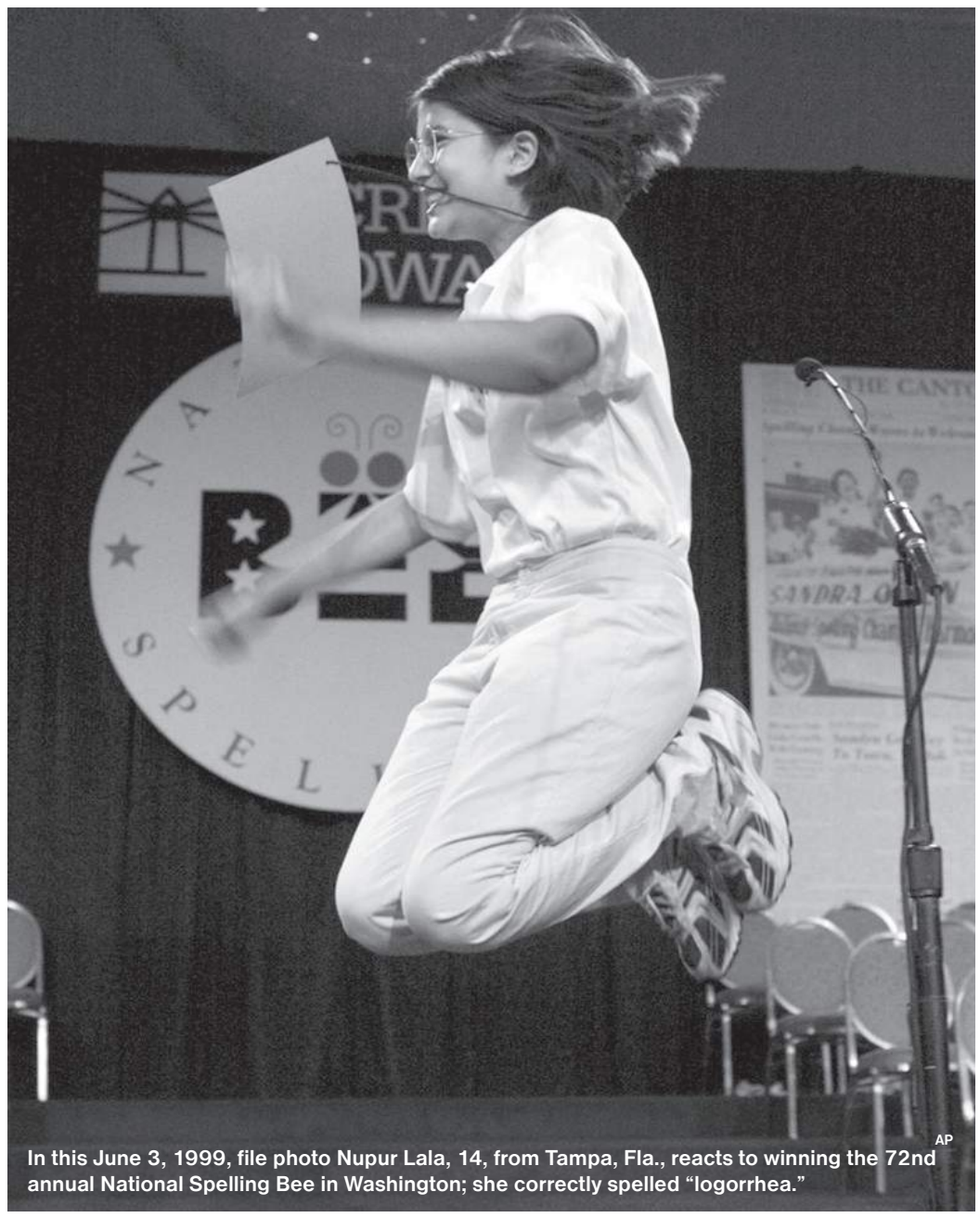
At least much of the terminology was familiar. After studying all those big words for the bee, a standard vocabulary test is a breeze.

“I remember taking the GRE years ago,” she said, “and how I had such an edge over other competitors because I basically studied the vocabulary component for the Spelling Bee.”

National Spelling Bee champions are a small and tight-knit group—Lala keeps tabs with many of her fellow winners—and she marvels that she had the nerve to pull off her win all those years ago. She turned down a chance to be featured on an MTV reality show that wanted to follow her through college; she wasn’t comfortable with the idea and didn’t feel she was crazy enough to be interesting.

Besides, there is life beyond the bee—and the public perception of what a bee winner should be—and that’s where Lala prefers to keep her focus, at least during the 51 weeks a year when she’s not glued to the television to see another successor crowned. Like Lala, this week’s champion will have a winning moment etched in America’s collective conscious and immortalized on the Internet, lasting long after he or she has grown up to pursue an impressive degree or career.

“It’s something that you fight quite a bit,” Lala said. “Especially now that I feel like I’m on a career path, it’s becoming a little bit easier. ... People always thought of me as this nerdy, excitable, just-an-awkward kid. Now they can see me as somebody beyond that, I hope.”



In this June 3, 1999, file photo Nupur Lala, 14, from Tampa, Fla., reacts to winning the 72nd annual National Spelling Bee in Washington; she correctly spelled “logorrhea.” AP

STAR STUDENTS

Grace Christian Academy recognized its top students in an Awards Day ceremony on May 28, 2013, at the GCA Auditorium.

JULIA CHRISTINE JINANG
1ST GRADE
- Consistent Principal’s List
- PGFC winner, 3rd place in Reader’s Forum

KEAN JAMES PAJARILLAGA
1ST GRADE
- Consistent Principal’s List

ELIJAH JOSHUA PAJARILLAGA
4TH GRADE
- PGFC winner, 2nd place in Duo
- Math Court Regional
- Academic Bee 2nd Place
- Consistent Principal List
- Perfect Attendance

MATT JASON MORAN
5TH GRADE
- Consistent Honor Roll
- Citizenship Character Award

ARVIN DAYAO
5TH GRADE
- PGFC winner, 1st place, in Imp.
- Math Court Regional
- Bible Trivia, 2nd place
- Consistent Honor Roll
- Diligence Character Award
- Perfect Attendance

JIM MICHAEL HAM
5TH GRADE
- PGFC winner 3rd place in Impromptu
- Winner, Islandwide Art Contest
- Bible Trivia, 1st place
- Consistent Principal List
- Bible Memory Award

MARK DANIEL VERSOZA
9TH GRADE
- Consistent Honor Roll
- Perfect Attendance

BETHANY GARFIL
11TH GRADE
- Thespians Regional winner, 4th place in Solo Musical Theatre
- Bible Memory Character Award
- Perfect Attendance

Life & Style

'Arrested Development' is freed to entertain anew

By ROBERT LLOYD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

AP

This image released by Starpix shows actors Will Arnett, left, and Jason Bateman, from the revived series "Arrested Development," holding chocolate-covered frozen bananas at the Bluth's Original Frozen Banana stand in the Times Square section of New York on Thursday, May 16, 2013. Season four of the series premiered on Sunday, May 26, on Netflix.

LOS ANGELES—At one minute past midnight, Sunday, May 26, the 15 episodes of "Arrested Development" Season 4 dropped, all at once, upon the battlefield of popular culture. If nothing else, this brings an end to all those articles wondering what the series—back after seven years and available exclusively through Netflix—would look like, how it would play and might best be consumed, and whether it would be the work of angels or apes. Let the speculation end, then, and the arguments begin! Let the metrics be gathered!

I have, to be clear, watched it all—and not with grim determination but rather great, increasing satisfaction.

Briefly, allowing for some minor technological upgrades, it looks like the "Arrested Development" of yore, but it unrolls in a much different form. Each episode focuses on an individual character, within the same slice of time—the five years after the end of Season 3—from different, sometimes overlapping angles. (It moves backward as well, with Seth Rogen and Kristen Wiig as the younger George Sr. and Lucille Bluth, played in the present by Jeffrey Tambor and Jessica Walter.)

In a sense, it is not merely a continuation of the show but a celebration of it, from the way it quotes earlier seasons, down to repeating whole lines of dialogue, to the many please-may-we-come-to-the-party cameos that at times threaten to turn the show into "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World."

If you are joining late, "Arrested Development" tells the story of the Bluths of Newport Beach, a highly codependent, dysfunctional family who continually try and fail to escape one another. ("Why is Michael so happy?" the show asked back in 2003, in the series' first episode. "Because he's decided to never speak to these people again.") Sometimes they have a lot of money and sometimes they don't, and frequently one of them is incarcerated somewhere.

Season 3 ended with a coda in which young Maeby Bluth (Alia Shawkat) pitched Ron Howard (an executive producer of the series and its narrator) her family story as a sitcom. (He saw it maybe as a movie.) That blossoms into a story line this season; as in more than one story line past, it involves one Bluth getting the others to sign something.

As previously, the show has fun with sex, race and money and often runs to the edge of tastelessness, but in a nice way. The action moves from spa prison to desert camp, Hollywood boardroom to college dorm room, far India to the familiar lonely Bluth penthouse and model home, now surrounded by other homes, all of them empty, because the development stands 20 miles from any services or amenities.

It begins with a sly admission of the passage of time, with Howard clearing his throat in voice-over. It's impossible, if you are familiar with the series, not to note how the characters have aged, even though the actors have been constantly in the public eye in the years since. (Noting that you're noticing, there is a joke about the agelessness of Jason Bateman, who plays the more or less normal Bluth, Michael—though the current season finds him in a state of crisis.)

The series' signatures, all still in place, are a self-consciousness that extends beyond the frame; cutaways to magazine covers and clippings and websites to advance the story and often to assert the falsity of something a character just asserted to be true; and a taste for double-entendres the speaker does not understand.

As in a sitcom or a soap opera—and "Arrested Development" is both—much of what happens results because someone has improvised a lie, or crafted one, or is simply not paying attention. (Usually, because they are too busy thinking about themselves.)

Misreadings fuel whole story lines, as when David Cross' Tobias Funke (sexually confused husband to Portia de Rossi's Lindsay Bluth) mistakes a methadone clinic for a "Method One" acting school.

There has been much debate over whether Netflix has erred by making the whole series available at once; but video on demand is its business model, after all, and for viewers whose previous experience of "Arrested Development" has been entirely by DVD or download, the new season will be watched much like the old ones. Nowadays, a TV series is digested like a novel, taken fast or slow, at the viewer's convenience and pleasure.

Jesse Eisenberg just might be the smartest actor in the room

By ROGER MOORE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Jesse Eisenberg stars in "Now You See Me." SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/MCT

ORLANDO, Fla.—Jesse Eisenberg earned an Oscar nomination playing Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. In "Zombieland," he's the narrator who has figured out all manner of "rules" for surviving the zombie apocalypse.

So when his clever magician, Michael Atlas, cracks to a cop about who "the smartest guy in the room" is in the heist picture "Now You See Me," the casting seems on the nose.

"Everybody thinks they're pretty smart," Eisenberg shrugs. "Even people who aren't, in fact, smart at all."

But even his colleagues are perfectly willing to vouch for his wits.

"He's endlessly clever," enthuses Isla Fisher, who co-stars with him in "Now You See Me."

So when Eisenberg, who has taken to writing and starring in his own plays in New York when he isn't making movies, faced a problem brought on by that, it's no surprise that his solution was very "smartest actor in the room."

"I was experiencing a LOT of stage fright, and nervousness about going on every night doing this play," he explains. "And 'Now You See Me' was a movie script about the most confident performer in the world. I thought, 'THAT would be interesting. Feeling confident about performing, instead of being nervous.

"I liked the storyline, but the fact that I got to play somebody unlike myself—a confident performer—was the big selling point. I went straight from a play, with a nightly anxiety attack, to playing the most confident guy in the world, part of the world's most confident profession. If you can't be confident, you can play a guy who is confident."

His two plays, "Asuncion" (2011) and this year's "The Revisionist," "are "so personal and self-critical that I just feel that much more exposed up there." So he was more than happy to immerse himself in an ensemble film (opening May 31), where carrying the movie would be shared by Fisher, Woody Harrelson and Dave Franco, as Robin Hood magicians pulling off illusions aimed at banks that have wronged the public, and Mark Ruffalo and Morgan Freeman as guys out to expose their tricks.

Eisenberg, who turns 30 in October, worked with professional magicians and came to appreciate their art and how it relates to his own.

"Every illusion, not just the big ones, every flick of the wrist has got to be perfected for you to pull it off. Stuff that seems microscopic to us is actually what separates the great from the amateur.

"In order to manipulate large groups of people, a magician has to be about 10 steps ahead of them. He has to know the variables ... It's fascinating to get into the mind of somebody who can think that way, get inside people's heads.

"In theater, you have to manage something like the same thing. You can't stop the show if something goes wrong. You have to anticipate. The show goes on. The difference is, my character in 'Now You See Me,' Atlas, LOVES that. Me, when I'm doing a play? Nerve-wracking."

Fisher ("Confessions of a Shopaholic") sees her co-star as a self-conscious performer, "always pulling back, finding the reality and going no further than that."

The same could be said of Eisenberg in real life. He is very private, so much so that he rarely confirms or denies Internet buzz on what project is next, whether he's become engaged (an early May rumor) and the like. His reality is that his latest play, in which he co-stars with Vanessa Redgrave, will move to a Broadway theater later in the year. And the rest he accepts as part of the myth growing up around him.

"It's pretty weird, the way other people take ownership of some part of your life," Eisenberg says. "And they don't know. We live in a world where everybody is written about by others, even if you're not in movies. I think everybody's dealing with that version of himself that others create."

WikiLeaks tale goes beyond site founder Assange

By REBECCA KEEGAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Protesters hold signs in support of Pfc. Bradley E. Manning in front of Fort George C. Meade in Ft. Meade, Maryland, Friday, December 16, 2011. MCT

LOS ANGELES—When director Alex Gibney began work on his documentary "We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks," he thought he would be telling the story of a charismatic, silver-haired free speech advocate named Julian Assange, who had exposed dark corners of powerful governments and corporations using little more than his laptop.

Instead, as he began to investigate, Gibney found himself crafting a digital age Icarus tale, in which the WikiLeaks founder's idealism and ambition were metastasizing into hubris, and his organization's greatest achievements rested on the shoulders of a lonely young Army private named Bradley Manning.

In portraying the battle between WikiLeaks—Assange's group, which publishes classified information supplied by anonymous sources—and its chief adversary, the U.S. government, Gibney delivers a movie about government transparency in the Internet era, an especially resonant topic in a month when it was revealed that the Justice Department secretly gathered the phone records of Associated Press journalists and the IRS targeted tea party groups.

The movie is also timely for another reason—it provides the most intimate portrait yet of Manning, whose court-martial for allegedly providing WikiLeaks with hundreds of thousands of classified documents is set to begin June 3 at Maryland's Fort Meade.

"I thought this film was about a leaking machine, this new technology, and I thought it was about this silver surfer character Julian Assange, who had this great David and Goliath story," Gibney said over coffee last month. "But in some ways it's a reflection of how important it is to constantly be examining what is true and what is not."

Producer Marc Shmuger, a former Universal Pictures co-chairman, originally brought the idea of making a WikiLeaks movie to Gibney, who won an Oscar for his 2007 Afghan war documentary "Taxi to the Dark Side," and has developed a kind of micro-niche of movies about the downfall of arrogant men and institutions—he directed "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," about the bankrupted energy company; "Casino Jack and the United States of Money," about corrupt Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff; and "Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer," about the prostitution scandal that felled the New York governor. This fall, his documentary about Lance Armstrong is due.

"Alex does a tremendous job in his films exploring subjects that are textured and morally complex and compelling," Shmuger said. "You're both drawn to him and repulsed by him simultaneously."

The two weren't the only filmmakers drawn to Assange; when they started on the documentary, three narrative movies about the Australian computer hacker were in various stages of development. Since then, only one has gone forward, director Bill Condon's "The Fifth Estate," which stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Assange and arrives in theaters in November.

Gibney penetrated the dense circle of agents, lawyers and journalists who surrounded Assange with the help of one of his film's executive producers, activist Jemima Khan, who had posted some of Assange's bail in a case involving allegations of sexual abuse by two Swedish women.

After months of discussions about Assange's possible participation in his film, Gibney flew to England, where his subject was living under house arrest in a country estate, for a six-hour meeting. According to Gibney, at that meeting Assange told him the going rate for an interview was $1 million. When Gibney said he didn't pay for interviews, Assange asked if instead the director would tell him what others interviewed in the documentary were saying.

"He didn't see the irony at all," said Gibney, 59. "To him, he was ... being attacked by big and powerful forces and he should have the right to do whatever is necessary to protect himself. The idea that spying on other interview subjects would be ironic for a transparency organization didn't occur to him at all."

Assange declined to cooperate with Gibney, which led the director to mine other sources, including footage an Australian journalist shot of Assange before he was famous, and to find another story—Manning's. Manning, a former intelligence analyst, faces charges of violating the Espionage Act and aiding the enemy in the most voluminous leak of state secrets in U.S. history, including video of a 2007 Baghdad airstrike and hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and Army reports.

Physically small and emotionally vulnerable, Manning emerges as a character in the film through a series of painfully intimate online chats he conducted using the handle Bradass87 with the hacker Adrian Lamo, who served as a confessor and friend before ultimately turning Manning in. "The chats presented a technical problem in terms of what you're supposed to do in film," Gibney said. "You're not supposed to put a lot of print up on screen."

But with the help of the London-based visual effects company Framestore, some of the movie's most dramatic moments come in the form of white text on a black screen, over the sound of a tapping keyboard.

At one point, Manning, explaining to Lamo why he was leaking information that called into question the morality of the Afghan and Iraq wars, types the phrase, "I ... care?"

"It seems to me both so enigmatic but so important," Gibney said. "He uses a question mark, not an exclamation point, so it's shy. ... It testifies fundamentally to his commitment."

After the movie, being released by Focus World, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, Assange supporters denounced it on Twitter using a hashtag with an epithet and Gibney's name. "For (Assange's supporters) it's all about white and black, about propaganda," Gibney said. "There is only one truth, the truth that Julian tells us. And there can be no dissent."

Today Assange and Manning reside in jails of a type. Assange lives in the Ecuadoran Embassy in London, where he has sought asylum from extradition to Sweden. Manning has spent more than three years in various military prisons awaiting his June trial.

"People say my films are political," Gibney said. "Maybe they're political. They're about moral quandaries. I'm interested in human psychology ... how people handle power, what motivates people to do what they do."

'Fast 6' speeds past 'Hangover' to top box office

1. **"Fast & Furious 6,"** $120 million ($158 million international).
2. **"The Hangover Part III,"** $51.2 million ($19.2 million international).
3. **"Star Trek: Into Darkness,"** $47 million ($13.1 million international).
4. **"Epic,"** $42.6 million ($23.1 million international).
5. **"Iron Man 3,"** $24.4 million ($17.4 million international).
6. **"The Great Gatsby,"** $17 million ($24.4 million international).
7. **"Mud,"** $2.5 million ($400,000 international).
8. **"The Croods,"** $1.6 million ($5.8 million international).
9. **"42,"** $1.6 million.
10. **"Oblivion,"** $1.1 million ($2.3 million international).

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The movie industry enjoyed its most robust Memorial Day weekend ever at the North American box office, with "Fast & Furious 6" speeding to the top spot.

The record-breaking four-day weekend generated estimated receipts of $316 million.

"Over $300 million for Memorial Day weekend has never happened before," said box office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com. "This proves that when you have a great selection of films, audiences will line up at movie theaters in record numbers."

The sixth installment of the "Fast & Furious" franchise debuted at No. 1 with $120 million, making it the biggest opening weekend for a Universal Pictures release, according to Hollywood.com. Starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker, the muscle-car action romp took in an additional $158 million internationally.

The street racers battle both a tank and a plane in the film.

"It is the very definition of the summer popcorn movie," Dergarabedian said. "You suspend disbelief, buckle up and go along for that ride."

"The Hangover Part III," starring Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms, opened in second place. The final chapter in the Warner Bros. raunchy comedy trilogy collected $51.2 million.

Paramount Pictures' "Star Trek: Into Darkness," which opened last week, added $47 million to its domestic ticket sales, landing at No. 3.

Fox' animated "Epic," the only non-sequel among the weekend's five top-grossing films, opened in the fourth spot with $42.6 million.

"We did see a hole in the release schedule that said this is the perfect time to launch an animated film," said Fox president of domestic distribution Chris Aronson. "It can be challenging to launch an original-content movie in such a competitive weekend, but this is a very special movie."

Now in its fourth week of release, "Iron Man 3"—which had the biggest opening so far this year—hung onto fifth place with $24.4 million.

The record-breaking weekend take bodes well for the summer movie season, Dergarabedian said. "This Memorial weekend is exactly what the industry needed, and this momentum will carry forward."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

Daft Punk sets Spotify record with new album

NEW YORK (AP)—Daft Punk has set another record on Spotify.

The music service said Monday that the electronic duo's new album, "Random Access Memories," had the biggest number of streams in its first week in the United States. Spotify wouldn't release the number of streams, but Daft Punk beat the 8 million streams Mumford & Sons set with "Babel" last year.

"Random Access Memories" is the Grammy-winning French group's fourth album.

Daft Punk also set a Spotify record last month when its song "Get Lucky" had the biggest streaming day for a single track in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Since its debut, "Get Lucky" has been streamed more than 27 million times.

Spotify launched in 2008.

AP

In this Wednesday, April 17, 2013 photo, Thomas Bangalter, right, and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, from the music group, Daft Punk, pose for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Israeli author Amos Oz wins Franz Kafka prize

PRAGUE (AP)—Acclaimed Israeli author Amos Oz has won the prestigious Franz Kafka Prize in the Czech Republic.

An international jury that included prominent German literary critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki selected Oz for the prize, which is awarded annually with a $10,000 prize.

Past winners have included the American novelist Philip Roth and Nobel laureates Elfriede Jelinek of Austria and Harold Pinter of Britain.

It is awarded by the Prague-based Franz Kafka Society to authors whose works "appeal to readers regardless of their origin, nationality and culture."

The society said in a statement Monday that Oz has agreed to travel to Prague with his wife for an October ceremony to receive the prize.

Oz has been said to be among the candidates for the Nobel Prize for literature in last several years.

McCartney leaves pick on 1st visit to Graceland

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—Paul McCartney made his first visit to Elvis Presley's grave and left one of his guitar picks behind.

According to the official Twitter account of the former Beatle, McCartney said the pick was "so Elvis can play in heaven."

The lifelong Elvis fan toured Graceland mansion Sunday.

McCartney was in Memphis to play a show on the North American leg of his "Out There" tour.

AP

STREET ART

In this photo taken on April 4, 2013, shows street dogs sitting on a painting by Romanian artist Vasile Muresan, known as Murivale in a parking lot, in Bucharest, Romania. The white-bearded painter can often be seen sitting on his colorful canvasses which he displays in the street followed by the street dogs which are his companions and also inspire his work. The 56-year-old, whose home city is Bistrita_the Transylvanian town associated with the legendary Count Dracula_ has been painting with passion since he was a teen, producing vivid works of Monaco, the streets of Paris, the hurly burly of the Romanian capital and huge colorful more abstract canvasses.

OBITUARIES

Longtime 'Tonight Show' drummer Shaughnessy dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed Shaughnessy, the jazz drummer who for nearly three decades anchored the rhythm section of Doc Severinsen's "Tonight Show" band, has died in Southern California. He was 84. William Selditz, a close family friend, tells the *Los Angeles Times* that Shaughnessy had a heart attack Friday at his home in Calabasas, outside Los Angeles. The New Jersey native began his jazz career as a teenager, playing with Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman and Count Basie. He replaced Buddy Rich in Tommy Dorsey's band. In the mid-1950s Shaughnessy became a staff musician at CBS. From 1963 to 1992, Shaughnessy was a late-night television fixture as part of the house band on NBC's "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. He is survived by a son and three grandchildren.

Controversial Austrian artis Otto Muehl dies

VIENNA (AP)—Austrian painter Otto Muehl, whose radical notions of art were only exceeded by the excesses in his lifestyle, has died. He was 87. Muehl died Sunday in Portugal, according to Daniele Roussel, the head of his archived works. In his statement Monday, Roussel did not provide the cause of death. Muehl was a co-founder of the Vienna Actionism, a controversial art movement in the 1960s, and his works shocked audiences with their use of blood, excrement and the human body as materials. He was convicted in 1991 of crimes including illicit drug use and sex with minors while heading a commune. He was imprisoned for nearly seven years. Muehl apologized to his juvenile victims in 2010.

Confused teen who had sex now regrets that she did

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl who recently had sex with my boyfriend. It was the first time for both of us. A week and a half later, we had a big fight.

Another problem is I am having a lot of feelings for his best friend, and he has feelings for me, too. I don't want to tell my boyfriend because I love him and don't want to lose him. I also don't want to ruin his friendship with the other guy.

My boyfriend wants to have sex again, but I don't. I wish I could take it back. What can I do?

LOST AND CONFUSED

DEAR LOST AND CONFUSED: Because you had sex once does not mean you are compelled to do it again. Feeling as you do about the best friend is a strong sign that as much as you care for your boyfriend, you are not in love with him.

If you are being pressured to have sex, it's important for YOUR sake that you tell your boyfriend you feel it happened too soon, you're sorry you did it, and you have decided to wait until you are older to start again. It would be an intelligent move for you because your affections appear to be all over the map right now.

I am also concerned because you didn't mention whether you both used birth control. It's a sign of maturity when couples plan ahead and take precautions to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. (And yes, a girl CAN get pregnant the first time.) In fact, there's a word for teens who have sex on the spur of the moment and don't use birth control: It's PARENTS.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My friend is a compulsive talker. "Chatty Cathy" draws detailed descriptions of people I don't know and don't care about and lingers over past and current tribulations. I tolerate her behavior because she's a kind person, but she is oblivious to how much she dominates a conversation. It's like something compels her to fill every silence with monologue.

Her personal and work relationships suffer because of it. It's hard for her to hold a job, and she often becomes upset over this co-worker's or that family member's behavior. It is always the other person's failure, yet she is always in the center of the commotion.

She has had a tough life, partly of her own making. If I try to send subtle cues of uninterest, she doesn't pick up on them and keeps talking and talking. I feel sorry for her. Is there anything I can do to help her, without seeming critical?

EXHAUSTED LISTENER IN HAWAII

DEAR EXHAUSTED: Not knowing your friend, I can only guess what drives her to talk compulsively. Some people do it because they feel the need to prove to others how smart they are. Others do it out of nervousness or insecurity because they are uncomfortable with silence—even if it is a momentary pause in conversation.

Because her behavior has had a negative impact on her employability, the next time she mentions problems at work, it would be a kindness to suggest to her that, because it's happening repeatedly, she discuss it with a psychologist. That's not hurtful; it's helpful.

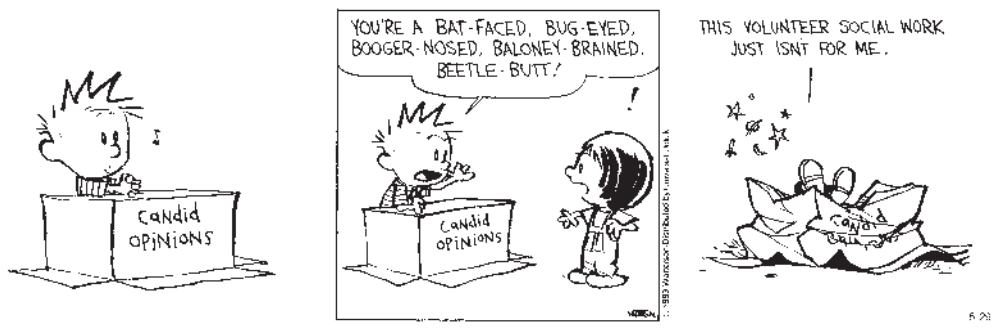
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

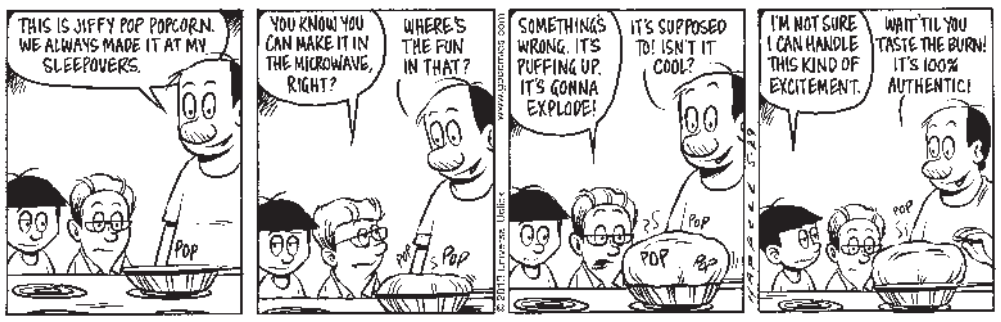

Candid opiNions
YOU'RE A BAT-FACED, BUG-EYED, BOOGER-NOSED, BALONEY-BRAINED, BEETLE-BUTT!
Candid opiNions
THIS VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORK JUST ISN'T FOR ME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS IS JIFFY POP POPCORN. WE ALWAYS MADE IT AT MY SLEEPOVERS.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN MAKE IT IN THE MICROWAVE, RIGHT?
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
SOMETHING'S WRONG. IT'S PUFFING UP. IT'S GONNA EXPLODE!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO! ISN'T IT COOL?
I'M NOT SURE I CAN HANDLE THIS KIND OF EXCITEMENT.
WAIT'TIL YOU TASTE THE BURN! IT'S 100% AUTHENTIC!
POP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

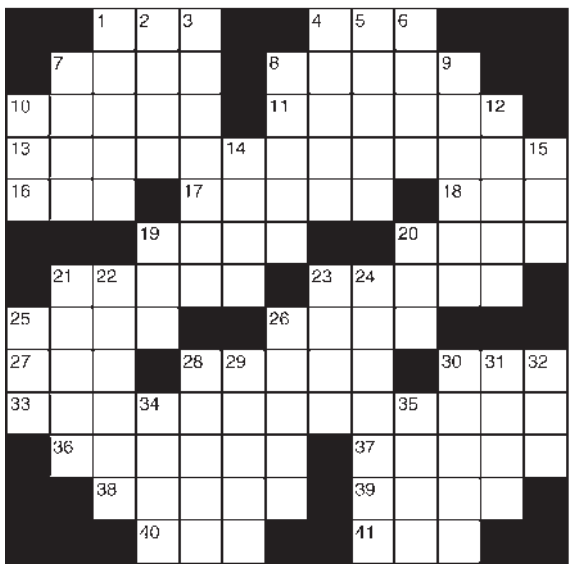
ACROSS
1 — Na Na
4 Swindle
7 Summery desserts
8 Fusses
10 Sixth president
11 Many
13 Proof of a crime
16 Sprite
17 Unclear
18 Still, in verse
19 Say it isn't so
20 Rhyming tributes
21 Groups of musicians
23 Slanted edge
25 Volcanic outflow
26 One of the Three Bears
27 Sailor's assent
28 Unwilling
30 Fine, to NASA
33 Texas city
36 Bill-payment period
37 Alan of "Little Miss Sunshine"
38 Mystery writer's award
39 Don of radio
40 Sun. speech
41 Rand McNally item

DOWN
1 Muffler
2 Rope fiber
3 Took for granted
4 Made pigeon sounds
5 "Strange to say ..."
6 — me tangere
7 "American —"
8 Hot rum drink
9 Withdraw
10 Expert
12 Man of — (Superman comparison)
14 Catches some rays
15 — and outs
19 "CSI" evidence
20 Eggs
21 Louisiana marsh
22 Unwilling
23 Dog owner's ordeal
24 Son of Joseph
25 Fond du —, Wis.
26 Harness horse
28 Thrust
29 "Argo" award
30 Invite to the penthouse
31 Elevator name
32 Family
34 Cushions
35 "Joy of Cooking" writer Rombauer

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	C	H	■	I	N	N	■	D	I	R	T
C	O	F	I	O	■	N	E	B	■	O	R	E	O
R	U	I	N	■	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	G
F	X	C	F	R	P	T	■	R	F	S	T	S
■	■	■	Y	E	T	■	A	O	L	■	■	■
B	L	A	S	T	■	E	X	C	L	U	D	E
Y	O	N	■	■	A	L	E	■	■	R	O	W
E	X	C	L	A	I	M	■	V	A	N	C	E
■	■	■	A	R	M	■	E	A	T	■	■	■
V	O	I	C	E	■	E	X	C	E	E	D	S
F	X	C	U	S	F	M	F	■	O	R	A	I
N	E	O	N	■	A	I	R	■	U	N	D	O
A	N	N	A	■	U	L	T	■	T	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melanie Brown, 38; Rupert Everett, 54; Annette Bening, 55; LaToya Jackson, 57

Happy Birthday: Expand your interests and learn all you can as you venture down new avenues. Exploring possibilities that entail communication, travel and skills you would like to put to better use will all bring high returns as long as you show dedication, determination and relentless courage. Show your worth and receive what you deserve. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 8, 12, 24, 28, 33, 42, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your charm and enthusiasm will help spark interest in something you need help pursuing. Present and promote your ideas and skills and you can make a difference. Romance is in the stars and spending quality time with someone special is suggested. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't share your feelings with people who can influence your future. Do whatever needs to be done in secret until you are fully prepared to put your plans into motion. Using an element of surprise will help you conquer your most difficult critic. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Ask questions and you will pick up valuable information regarding someone who can help you pursue a dream. Being open about your feelings and pursuits will change the way you move forward and the people you associate with in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get the facts before making a decision. Investigating the possibilities and who is involved in something you want to take part in will give you the upper hand. Sufficient preparation and positive action will ensure success. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Let your emotions and passion about whatever you do or say lead the way when addressing groups, professional partners or any concerns you have, and you will capture the attention of someone who feels the same way and wants to contribute. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Observe what everyone around you is doing. Avoid being the topic of conversation. Don't get involved in gossip or share time-sensitive information. A change in your financial situation is apparent and will be dependent on your resume, contract or settlement. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel should be on your agenda. Romance will entice you and lead to exciting conversations and plans for the future. You can learn from someone who has experience regarding a service or skill you wish to develop. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Making changes at home will pay off even if they do require significant effort. Renovations, moves or investing in something that you will benefit from personally will help you secure your assets. Use your imagination. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do what you can to help others, but make sure you do so for the right reason. Partnerships will undergo changes, but if you are open and honest you will come up on top. Pursuing a different lifestyle will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put more emphasis on getting along with your peers. Showing an interest or discussing your past or personal life will help you build trust as well as ensure you will receive the backing you need when the time comes. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Emotional matters will rise to the surface. Don't be shy or hesitant to talk about your future plans or to share what you'd like to see happen between you and someone you feel is special. Put love and romance first. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Trust the facts, not what someone wants you to believe. You have to pick and choose your pursuits carefully. Base your decisions on reality. Keep your emotions out of any financial, medical or legal decision you have to make. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have charm, magnetism and enthusiasm. You are curious and inventive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	3	7			
		2			4			
	4			9				
5				7				
9				2			4	1
7					8	3		2
	3							6
		5					9	
			3	8	6	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	1	2	3	5	8	6	9
5	8	3	9	4	6	2	7	1
2	9	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
4	2	5	6	8	7	1	9	3
6	1	9	3	5	2	4	8	7
8	3	7	4	1	9	6	2	5
1	5	8	7	6	3	9	4	2
3	6	2	5	9	4	7	1	8
9	7	4	8	2	1	3	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ZANZIBAR Solution: 9 letters

T	M	C	N	F	A	U	A	M	A	G	N	A	P	S
A	A	I	U	D	O	O	F	A	E	S	N	I	U	R
N	R	N	N	A	E	O	H	M	I	M	T	O	N	I
Z	U	N	G	R	J	C	T	A	T	N	P	O	P	O
A	H	A	W	A	A	U	N	B	F	I	A	I	O	B
N	U	M	I	E	N	F	G	A	A	R	S	Z	R	W
I	B	O	B	O	L	Y	F	N	V	L	I	U	O	E
A	I	N	R	W	R	E	I	I	U	D	L	C	R	J
O	N	T	A	O	E	E	L	K	A	N	A	E	A	U
R	H	C	V	E	D	N	Ⓔ	I	A	V	A	G	N	U
U	E	I	I	A	C	Ⓦ	I	F	K	E	N	D	W	A
T	J	P	R	E	Ⓐ	O	D	O	U	B	U	B	U	B
W	A	T	P	Ⓑ	N	N	N	E	W	M	E	T	A	M
S	P	I	C	E	S	T	A	D	N	O	H	A	M	E
A	R	C	H	I	P	E	L	A	G	O	T	R	O	P

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Advanced, Africa, Ancient, Archipelago, Bawe, Beach, Bububu, Bwejuu, Cinnamon, Empire, Football, Ivory, Jozani, Kendwa, Kilele, Land, Mahonda, Maruhubi, Matemwe, Mbweni, Mtoni, Ngava, North, Nungwi, Nutmeg, Ocean, Paje, Panga Maua, Pemba, Pepper, Popo, Port, Raffia, Reef, Ruins, Seafood, Spices, Tanganyika, Tanzania, Trade, Unguja, Uroa, Urusi

Yesterday's Answer: Mystery

The NEW Treasury 15 can be ordered by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 130 puzzles, including 31 20x20 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Front desk-Lady. Pick up application form at Mascot Corp. office, Beach Rd., Garapan. Tel. 235-2998/4998.

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Round-trip airline ticket to Houston, Texas for $600.00. Call John 783-0071.

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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TWIC card holder preferred
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Closing Date: May 31, 2013
Contact: 285-1487

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(For US workers only)

(1) Accountant
(1) Computer System Administrator
Minimum of 4-5 years working experience required.

Interested applicants may send their Resume to info@usaislandsseafood.com

SUNLEADER CO., LTD.
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(1) Bookkeeper
Must be responsible and Peachtree literate
(1) General Manager
Must be responsible enough to manage business
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(1) Head Cashier
(2) Supervisor
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$100 Security Deposit Required
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CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Housekeeper
High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, June 06, 2013.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Betty I. Verano Petitioner, vs. **Domingo B. Verano** Respondent.	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0170** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500641, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) SYSTEM MANAGER

- Must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience preferred.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintains all of company's computer systems that include computer hardware, computer software, computer networks and advance server skills.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.
- Must be flexible with work schedule.
- Must have a valid CNMI drivers license.

Interested applicants must submit resume or fill out an application at Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 05/31/2013 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Judy I. Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are currently seeking positive, friendly and outgoing individuals for the position of:

KIDS CLUB ASSISTANT

The Sports, Entertainment & Activities (SEA) department is looking for two (2) energetic individuals to assist with our morning and afternoon Kids Club program. Duties include, but are not limited to, assisting the lead Kids Club instructor with the organization and execution of our kids club activities. The Kids Club assistant must be comfortable working in and around the water (swimming pools and ocean).

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Previous experience working with kids in a recreational-type setting
- Enjoys working with kids
- Positive, energetic and patient
- Ability to lead activities and follow directions
- Available from 0900-0500 (weekends and holidays included)

All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Application deadline is **5pm on Monday, June 3, 2013.**

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Spurs back in finals after sweep of Grizzlies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—It may seem as if the San Antonio Spurs are playing for an NBA title every year. Tim Duncan and Tony Parker know only too well how very long it's been since their last chance.

Now they're back in the Finals with their first chance at a championship since 2007, a really long time for a Spurs team that knows a thing or two—or three—about hoisting trophies.

"Honestly, it feels like it's been forever since we've been to this point," Duncan said Monday night after the Spurs advanced with a 93-86 win over the Memphis Grizzlies. "We've been on the verge of kind of getting here. We still feel like we were in contention, but we can't get over that hump. To get over that hump and get back in the Finals, it's an amazing feeling, honestly."

Parker scored 37 points to lead the Spurs, who finished off their second sweep this postseason for their fifth Western Conference title. The Spurs were just two wins away from a trip to the Finals a year ago before blowing that lead in six games to Oklahoma City.

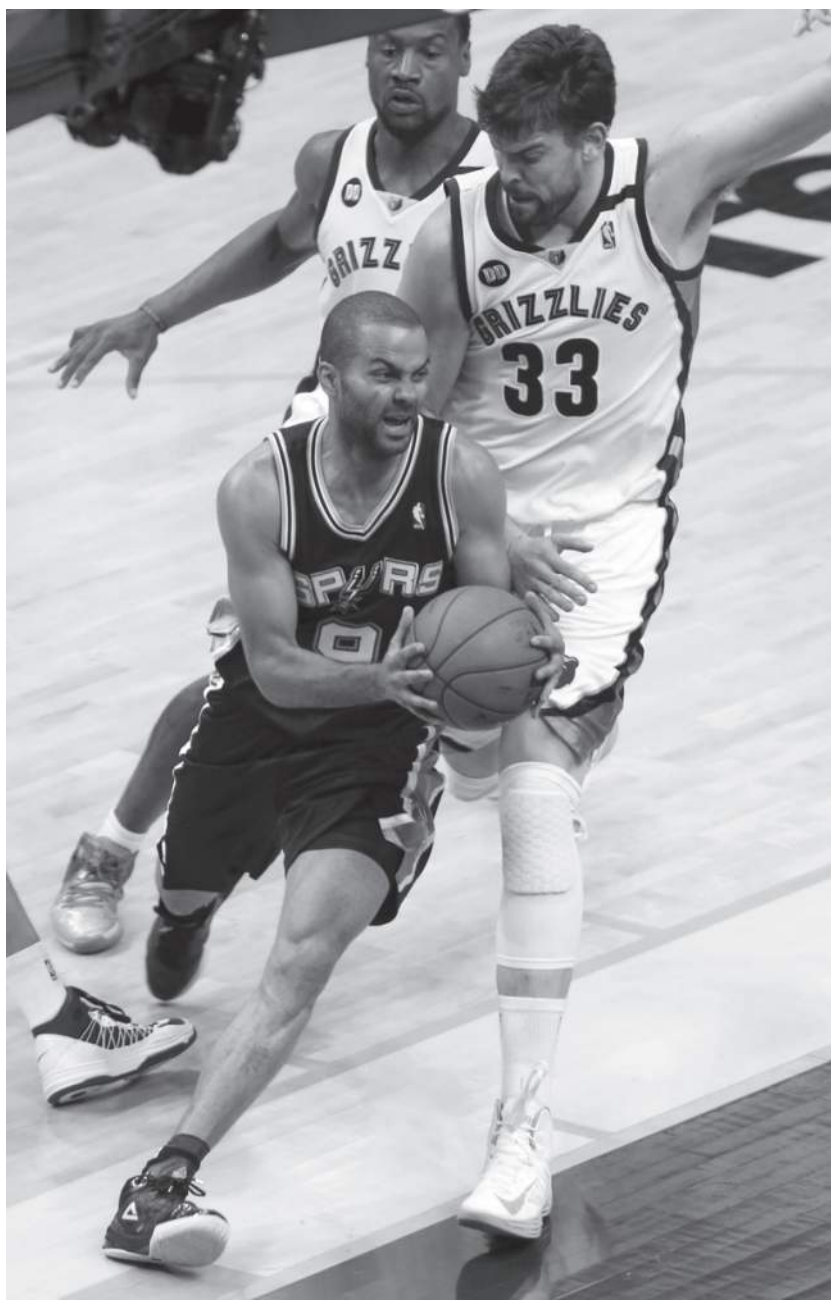
Parker said he has learned just how tough it is to get there after winning his first NBA title at the age of 21.

"In 2007, we won our third one in five years and you think it's going to keep coming," Parker said. "And I'm 25, and six years goes by and every year it gets tougher and tougher. Every team wants to beat you, and that's why it makes it even more special to go back after all those years playing at a high level with the same coach, with the same big three but changing a couple pieces."

The Spurs now head home to rest and wait for either Miami or Indiana after finishing off the first conference finals sweep since the Nets handled Detroit in 2003. Game 1 of the finals is June 6.

"If we go all the way, it'll definitely be my favorite because it gets harder and harder," Parker said with the Western championship trophy sitting in front of him.

The Spurs now have won six straight in these playoffs, and they did it by handing two straight losses to a team that had been undefeated on their own court in their best postseason in franchise history.



AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9) drives to the basket as Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33) defends, during the second half in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, May 27, 2013, in Memphis, Tenn.

"We will be back," Grizzlies guard Mike Conley said.

Memphis finished off the best season in team history getting swept by the very same franchise that needed four games to knock them out of their first playoff appearance in 2004. The Grizzlies got a standing ovation from their fans as the final seconds ticked off.

Parker had his best game this postseason, hitting 15 of 21 shots and four of his six free throws in the final 29.7 seconds to seal this victory.

"He's been amazing," Duncan said of Parker. "Every year he gets better and better and better. He's been carrying us. You can see tonight he carried us the entire game."

The 37-year-old Duncan finished with 15 points and eight rebounds. Kawhi Leonard added 11 points.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich savored being back in the Finals once again.

"You don't expect that to happen maybe this late in the game with the same group," Popovich said. "It's tough to do, to maintain something that long. But it just shows the character of those three guys and their ability to play with whoever else is brought in around them. They deserve a lot of credit for that."

Memphis coach Lionel Hollins had talked about how his Grizzlies needed to dig deep for something they didn't know they had to take the first step back into this series. They just couldn't outshoot the Spurs and got beaten once again at their own inside game.

"We just never could gain control of the paint," Hollins said. "They controlled the paint."

That the Spurs did as they shot 51.3 percent (39 of 76) from the floor and outscored Memphis 52-32 in the paint, even though the Grizzlies had a 41-34 edge on the boards. Memphis led only briefly and the last at 6-4 as the Spurs took control early.

Memphis stayed close only by getting to the free throw line, making more shots there (17 of 24) than San Antonio took (12 of 13).

The Grizzlies also got a career-high 22 points from reserve Quincy Pondexter, 18 of those in the second half. Pondexter was the only player from Memphis to shoot over .500. Zach Randolph finished with 13 points, continuing his struggles at the line, where he was 5 of 8. Marc Gasol had 14 points for Memphis.

"It's difficult." Randolph said. "I don't know what to say. They beat us. It's disappointing. We lost the series, got swept or whatever."

Duncan had taken care of the Grizzlies scoring the big points in overtime in each of the last two games.

Parker took over this time as he hit 14 of his first 18 shots, and he hit the biggest shot with 9:15 left when he knocked down his lone 3-pointer over the outstretched arms of both Tony Allen and Randolph after Memphis had gotten within 76-73 with fans sensing the most life out of the Grizzlies all night long.

Parker and Duncan took turns making buckets before Parker got hit in the eye by Gasol's outstretched hand after missing a shot. When Parker returned with 4:43 left, Gasol went over to him and Parker told him he was fine. Parker then hit a jumper with 4:13 remaining for an 89-81 lead.

"He was outstanding the whole series, and he controlled the series with his penetration," Hollins said of Parker. "He made shots, made plays. One game he has 18 assists, today he has 37 points. He was huge. But their team played well."

The Grizzlies made one last run and got within three one last time when Gasol scored on a runner in the lane with 48.7 seconds left at 89-86. But Parker finished off the win at the line.

The Spurs took control in the first quarter and answered each time the Grizzlies tried to make a run with either Popovich taking a timeout or Parker hitting another shot. Memphis got its best break of the first half when officials called a 5-second call on the Spurs inbounding the ball and Jerryd Bayless hit a 3 to pull the Grizzlies within 44-38 at halftime.

Gasol's frustration spilled over in the third quarter as he headed to the bench for a timeout when he smacked the press table with both hands. He also went to his knees when officials blew their whistles after he snagged a rebound. Gasol said he would replay this game in his head once in bed, and he sounded ready to get back to work quickly.

"They taught us a lesson how to play at this stage this far into the season, this far into the playoffs," Gasol said of the Spurs. "They taught us a lesson how to execute, how to play, how to read schemes. They taught us a lesson all around. I think we're going to be better because we played against, to me, one of the greatest teams that's been in the past 15 years."

Sharapova wins easily, Nadal starts slow in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Knowing her first match as the French Open's defending champion was scheduled for late in the day, Maria Sharapova decided to treat herself to some down time at a local park.

Nothing like a little introspection before competition.

"I remember myself sitting in the same position last year. ... You think back to those moments, and you go through the changes and the additions and the minuses and all the things you have in your life, and at the end of the day, I'm still doing the same thing," she said. "And I love it just as much, which puts a big smile on my face."

Nearly a decade removed from her first Grand Slam title, Sharapova set out to win what would be No. 5 with a rather quick and simple 6-2, 6-1 victory Monday over 42nd-ranked Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan in the first round at Roland Garros.

"You look at the playground in the park, and then you know four hours later, you're going to be on one of the center courts, going to be playing in front of thousands of people," said Sharapova, who did not double-fault or face a break point during her 54-minute match. "That just still gets (me) really excited."

The schedule for Tuesday, when the forecast predicted rain, includes the two champions from the Australian Open in January, No. 1-seeded Novak Djokovic and No. 3 Victoria Azarenka, along with past major titlists Petra Kvitova and Samantha Stosur.

Sharapova completed a career Grand Slam with last year's French Open trophy, adding it to the ones from Wimbledon in 2004, the U.S. Open in 2006, and the Australian Open in 2008. She never got the chance to defend that last one in 2009, because she was sidelined with an injured right shoulder; Sharapova had surgery on it in 2010.

There is certainly something special about returning to the site of a championship, as she did Monday.

"It's nice to come back to a place where you feel like you're part of its history," Sharapova said, "where your name will always be (engraved) somewhere on the wall or on the trophy."

Rafael Nadal, an 11-time major champion, also knows that feeling rather well, of course—especially in Paris, where he has won a record seven titles, including the past three.

His bid to become the only man with eight championships at any Grand Slam tournament got off to a slow start Monday, before he restored order by coming back to beat 59th-ranked Daniel Brands 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3.

For the better part of two sets, it wasn't all that different from Nadal's previous match at a Slam: Early round, main stadium, unknown opponent taking risky swings and putting everything in. At Wimbledon nearly a year ago, it was 100th-ranked Lukas Rosol who took it to Nadal and beat him in the second round.

"He was trying to hit every ball as hard as he can," said Nadal, who improved to 37-2 this season, with 16 victories in a row. "He made me suffer, I can tell you."

Brands came in 0-4 at the French Open, and with a sub-.500 career record in all tour matches, and his strategy was right out of Rosol's playbook: Keep points short and aim for the lines.

"That's the way. If you give Nadal time, there's no chance. You have to be aggressive. That's my view," Rosol, who's now ranked 36th, said Monday after winning his first-round match. "If other players play aggressive against him, that's the only way to beat him."

Toni Nadal, who is Rafael's uncle and coach, saw similarities with the last time his nephew played at a Grand Slam.

"Yes, it was a little the same," Toni said. "Against Rosol, in the fifth set, we couldn't do anything."

But when a reporter wanted to know whether there's a pattern being established as to the type of foe who can bother Rafael, Toni shrugged that off, replying: "When you play against an opponent who serves really well, who puts in a high percentage of first serves, and who hits balls really fast, it's complicated for everyone—not just for Rafael."

Had the third-seeded Nadal lost the match, it would have been one of the biggest upsets in the sport's history. Even merely losing the first set was significant, though, considering that Nadal began the day having dropped only 14 of the 170 sets he'd contested at the clay-court major tournament.

The victory improved his career record at Roland Garros to 53-1, the only loss coming in the fourth round in 2009 against Robin Soderling, not incidentally a 6-foot-4 free swinger.

"It was very, very difficult for us," Toni Nadal said after Monday's match.

In other Day 2 action, French wild-card recipient Gael Monfils surprised No. 5 Tomas Berdych 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-7 (4), 7-5, while Australia's Nick Kyrgios, at 18 the youngest player in the men's draw, made a successful Grand Slam debut by eliminating 34-year-old Radek Stepanek 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8), 7-6 (11). Two U.S. men won to set up a meeting for a spot in the third round: John Isner and Ryan Harrison.

Murphy comes through in 8th, Mets edge Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Murphy hit a go-ahead single in the eighth after being denied a homer two innings earlier, and the New York Mets rallied to beat the rival Yankees 2-1 Monday night for their second straight home win after losing eight in a row.

David Wright hit his first home run at Citi Field this year to tie it in the seventh. Murphy came through against David Robertson (3-1) to hand the Yankees their first loss in 23 games when leading after six innings.

Murphy's drive to left-center in the sixth was caught above the wall by Brett Gardner to end the inning. The Yankees also threw out a runner at home plate in the eighth just before Murphy singled to center field.

Brandon Lyon (2-2) pitched a scoreless the eighth in relief of an impressive Jonathon Niese. Bobby Parnell worked the ninth for his eighth save.

AP

New York Yankees center fielder Brett Gardner (11) catches Daniel Murphy's sixth-inning flyout at the outfield wall for the third out in an interleague baseball game at Citi Field in New York, Monday, May 27, 2013. One runner was on base at the time.

Dodgers 8, Angels 7

In Los Angeles, Jerry Hairston Jr. singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Adrian Gonzalez went 4 for 4 and scored four runs for the Dodgers in the Freeway Series opener.

The Angels' season-high eight-game winning streak ended after they blew a five-run lead in the first of two games at Dodger Stadium before the series shifts to Anaheim for two more.

Hairston was reinstated from the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day. He was 0 for 2 with a strikeout before he singled off Robert Coello (1-1) with two outs. After Matt Kemp struck out for the third time, Gonzalez singled and Scott Van Slyke struck out before pinch hitter Andre Ethier walked to set up Hairston.

Ronald Belisario (3-4) got the victory and Brandon League pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

Cubs 7, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Jeff Samardzija threw a two-hitter and Julio Borbon hit a two-run home run to help the Cubs get the victory.

Samardzija (3-6) pitched the Cubs' first shutout since Randy Wells on Aug. 29, 2011, against the Giants. The last time Cubs shut out an opponent as a team came against the Rockies on Aug. 26, 2012.

The first White Sox hit came from Conor Gillaspie in the third inning. Samardzija then got Jeff Keppinger to hit into a double play as he faced the minimum through four innings.

He struck out Alejandro De Aza to end the sixth. He then retired 12 straight before giving up a walk to Tyler Flowers in the ninth inning.

White Sox starter Jose Quintana (3-2) allowed four runs and four hits in six innings.

Tigers 6, Pirates 5

In Detroit, Justin Verlander struck out 13 in seven innings and Jhonny Peralta had four hits to lead Detroit to its sixth win in seven games.

It was Peralta's first four-hit game since June 4, 2010, when he was playing for Cleveland.

Verlander (6-4) hadn't pitched more than five innings in any of his previous three starts, struggling at times with his location. But he was sharp for the most part against Pittsburgh, allowing three runs and seven hits with two walks.

Joaquin Benoit allowed two runs—one earned—in the eighth. Jose Valverde finished for his sixth save in seven chances, striking out a swinging Andrew McCutchen with a runner on first to end it.

Pittsburgh left-hander Francisco Liriano (3-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Red Sox 9, Phillies 3

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia and Mike Napoli homered in the first inning as Boston jumped to an early lead and coasted to the victory.

Substitute starter Alfredo Aceves (2-1) had his best outing of the year, holding the Phillies to one run over six innings. Jacoby Ellsbury had hits in each of the first three innings to help the Red Sox earn their fourth consecutive victory and their 10th in their last 13 games.

Tyler Cloyd (1-1) allowed three runs in the first inning and was charged with three more in the third. He lasted just 2 1-3 innings, giving up nine hits and a walk while striking out two.

Jimmy Rollins, Ryan Howard, John Mayberry and Ben Revere each had two hits for the Phillies.

Athletics 4, Giants 1

In Oakland, Calif., Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer to back Dan Straily's strong start, and the Athletics won the Bay Bridge Series opener.

Straily (3-2) tossed six innings of one-run ball, allowing four hits and one walk. Buster Posey's groundout in the sixth inning drove in San Francisco's lone run.

Donaldson connected against Madison Bumgarner (4-3) in the fourth, and Yoenis Cespedes added a two-run double against George Kontos in the seventh to extend Oakland's lead.

Sean Doolittle pitched two perfect innings and Grant Balfour recorded his 11th save of the season for Oakland, which has won four straight and nine of 10.

Orioles 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Jason Hammel pitched eight sharp innings in his longest start of the season, leading the Orioles to the win.

Nick Markakis and Yamaico Navarro each drove in two runs and the Orioles had 15 hits, including three from Manny Machado.

Hammel (7-2) improved to 4-0 at Nationals Park. He allowed eight hits and two runs, struck out eight and walked none.

Nationals starter Gio Gonzalez (3-3) was charged with four runs and eight hits in 5 2-3 innings. The left-hander had no record and a sparkling 1.29 ERA over his previous three outings.

Washington played without Bryce Harper, who has swelling in his left knee.

Reds 4, Indians 2

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning to lift Cincinnati to the victory.

Votto drove a 2-1 pitch from Nick Hagadone (0-1) over the wall in left for his ninth homer. Hagadone was called up from Triple-A earlier in the day when closer Chris Perez was put on the disabled list with a sore right shoulder.

Shin-Soo Choo also had a leadoff homer in the first for the Reds. Choo was traded from the Indians to the Reds in the offseason.

Pinch hitter Jason Giambi had a tying solo homer in the eighth for Cleveland, snapping an 0-for-24 slump.

Jonathan Broxton (2-1) got two outs for the win and Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

Blue Jays 9, Braves 3

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer for Toronto, and Colby Rasmus and J.P. Arencibia each had a two-run shot.

Rasmus also doubled off his younger brother, Braves reliever Cory Rasmus, but Toronto lost third baseman Brett Lawrie to a sprained ankle.

Encarnacion went 2 for 5 with five RBIs as the Blue Jays improved to 3-0 in interleague play. Toronto has won nine of 12 against NL opponents dating to last season.

Mark Buehrle (2-3) allowed one run and five hits in six innings to snap a seven-start winless streak and earn his 26th career interleague victory.

Evan Gattis hit his 11th homer, a two-run shot in the eighth, but the Braves lost their second straight following an eight-game winning streak. Tim Hudson (4-4) matched a season worst by allowing six runs and eight hits in six innings.

Diamondbacks 5, Rangers 3, first game
Diamondbacks 5, Rangers 4, second game

In Phoenix, Didi Gregorius hit a tying homer off Yu Darvish in the eighth inning and Cliff Pennington singled home the winning run in the ninth, helping Arizona to a doubleheader sweep.

Darvish matched his career best with 14 strikeouts but allowed a run after the sixth inning for the first time this season. Gregorius also had an RBI triple in the first.

In the opener, Tyler Skaggs (1-0) struck out nine over six scoreless innings and Heath Bell got two outs for his ninth save.

Brad Ziegler (2-1) got the victory in the nightcap, and Jason Frasor (0-1) took the loss.

Martin Perez (0-1) allowed four runs, three earned, in 5 1-3 innings in the opener for Texas. Adrian Beltre had a two-run single in the Rangers' three-run ninth.

Cody Ross hit a solo homer for the Diamondbacks.

Cardinals 6, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Yadier Molina homered and drove in four runs to help the Cardinals get the win.

Molina hit a two-run homer in the first. He then doubled home a run in the third and had a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

Adam Wainwright (7-3) allowed three runs and 12 hits in eight innings, but managed to get the win. Edward Mujica finished for his 15th save.

It was the most hits allowed by Wainwright since Sept. 14, 2010, against the Chicago Cubs.

James Shields (2-6) gave up nine hits and season highs of six runs and five walks in six innings to lose his fourth straight start.

Rookie David Lough had four hits for Kansas City.

Rays 10, Marlins 6

St. Petersburg, Fla., Kelly Johnson hit a pair of three-run homers and Tampa Bay handed Miami its sixth straight loss.

Johnson also doubled, singled and stole a base. He matched his career highs for RBIs and hits during his eighth multihomer game, and first since May 30, 2011, against the Marlins while with Arizona.

Johnson, who has 24 RBIs in 21 games this month, connected against rookie Jose Fernandez (2-3) in a six-run second inning. He then broke open the game by hitting his 10th home run in the eighth against A.J. Ramos.

Jake McGee (2-2) got the victory after pitching two scoreless innings of relief.

Twins 6, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Joe Mauer wound up with a home run instead of a double after umpires went to video replay, and the Twins got a sorely needed victory.

Kevin Correia (5-4) pitched six innings and gave up three homers as Minnesota won for only the second time in 13 games. Glen Perkins pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 10th save.

Carlos Gomez homered twice for the Brewers.

The Twins led 4-3 when Mauer led off the seventh inning against Tom Gorzelanny with a long fly to left field. Mauer stopped at second base, and the umpires went to review the drive.

The ball hit the padding atop the fence and then appeared to strike a back wall, making it a home run. The second base umpire was Angel Hernandez—he was the chief in Cleveland earlier this month when Hernandez and his crew mistakenly failed to reverse a call on the field and rule a home run.

Milwaukee's Wily Peralta (3-6) allowed four runs and five hits with five walks in five innings.

Mariners 9, Padres 0

In Seattle, Aaron Harang threw a four-hitter, Jason Bay hit his first career leadoff homer and Michael Morse added a three-run shot as part of Seattle's four-run first inning.

Harang (2-5) rebounded from a poor last start against the Angels, allowing a leadoff bloop double to Everth Cabrera and then retiring 18 of the next 19 batters. It was his first complete game since June 4, 2009, and first shutout since April 12, 2009. He struck out a season-high eight and threw 122 pitches.

A day after getting the game-winning hit in the 13th inning against Texas that snapped the Mariners' eight-game losing streak, Bay got Seattle started against San Diego lefty Clayton Richard.

Bay hit Clayton Richard's fourth pitch out to deep right-center field for his fifth homer of the season. Morse followed with his 11th homer into the right-field seats after Richard (0-5) walked Kyle Seager and gave up a double to Kendrys Morales.

Astros 3, Rockies 2, 12 innings

In Houston, Brandon Barnes hit a game-ending RBI double to give Houston the victory.

The Rockies intentionally walked Jose Altuve with two outs before Barnes drove in drive in pinch runner Roger Cedeno with a ground-rule double to right off Wilton Lopez (1-2).

Paul Clemens (2-2) struck out two in a scoreless 12th for the win.

Carlos Gonzalez and Jonathan Herrera each drove in a run for Colorado. Carlos Pena hit a tying two-run double in the fourth for Houston.

Mariana Resort stays in playoff hunt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mariana Resort remained in the playoff race in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League after defeating Kanoa Resort, 86-76, last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mariana Resort got only its second win in eight games, but moved closer to Kanoa, which is at the No. 8 spot in the team standings with its 2-5 record. Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs and Mariana Resort, Kanoa, and Saipan Apparel are battling for the last two spots. Saipan Apparel played the Hoopaholics in the second game last Monday, but the official scoresheet of the match was unavailable at press time.

With both teams fighting for dear life, Mariana Resort and Kanoa Resort engaged in a close duel in the first half before the former took control of the match in the pivotal third period.

Mariana Resort was up by a deuce at the end of the first period, 22-20, and extended its lead to only four at halftime, 43-39, before its triples began falling in the third to open a double-digit advantage, 67-52. Mariana Resort started the third canto with three straight treys, two came from Leo Galarse and one from Edwin Camacho. James Abuy and Roy Ocanada added one each later in the third to give Mariana Resort momentum going into the final canto.

Galarse opened the fourth with his third triple of the night, while Perry Inos and Preston Basa tried to answer, but Mariana Resort had built enough cushion in the third canto to keep its distance.

Galarse and his four other teammates finished in double figures with Abuy leading the way with his 22 points, 12 of them came from downtown. Galarse chipped in 16, Darwin Barbo had 15, and Camacho and Glenn Aquino contributed 11 apiece.

Inos paced Kanoa with his 25 points, while Basa was held to 12 markers, a far cry from his 30-point output in their 109-102 upset over Mobil last Friday.

With the loss, Kanoa had its two-game winning streak snapped, as the team played without Jason Bahillo, Brian Ajoste, and Justine Zapanta, who all scored in twin digits in their big win over Mobil.

Mariana Resort 86 – Abuy 22, Galarse 16, Barbo 15, Aquino 11, Camacho 11, Ocanada 8, Hidalgo 1.

Kanoa Resort 76 – Inos 25, Basa 12, Manglona 11, Tenepere 11, Pablo 7, Cadauan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-20, 43-39, 67-52, 86-76.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
James Abuy, seen here trying to keep the ball away from Docomo's Elgene Mangali, right, and Bruce Berline, left, scored 22 points in Mariana Resort's 86-76 win over Kanoa Resort in the Shirley's caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

FHP/TakeCare tops SCC softball tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
FHP/TakeCare Insurance won the 2013 SCC Corporate Challenge softball tournament after defeating ASC Trust, 20-19, last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce had a wild and dramatic extra inning game Sunday, May 26, that decided the 2013 SCC Corporate Challenge softball tournament this year.

Normally, the annual Corporate Challenge is used to generate funds for its college scholarship program, but this year's version had all the elements of a top-notched competitive softball tournament.

FHP/TakeCare Insurance defeated ASC Trust, 20-19, in extra innings to claim the 2013 SCC Corporate Challenge Championship game at the Capital Hill Ballfield, settling a score they've harbored since losing to ASC Trust in last year's final tournament game.

Sixteen SCC member companies donated $300 each to the SCC College Scholarship Fund, and 13 teams competed from 9am to 8pm. In a wild finish, TakeCare doubled up an ASC base runner at second base to claim bragging rights, then picked up their hardware and SCC member donated prizes in a rain shower. The game featured six lead changes and 17 home runs between the two teams.

Coca Cola/Glimpses captured their third straight Team Spirit Award trophy, again with cheerleading from stands full of their supporters, a tent worth remembering and cold espresso and PowerAde for everyone.

SCC expressed its appreciation to all the teams, FHP/TakeCare, ASC Trust, DFS Galleria, G4S Security, IT&E, Coca Cola/Glimpses, IP&E, Triple J Enterprises/Hertz, Fiesta Resort, CUC, MARPAC Distributors, Delta Management, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, XEROX Corporation and Saipan Shipping Company. Additionally receiving recognition from SCC were prize donors and support sponsors D&Q Saipan, Tan Holdings, KKMP, Coca Cola, and the Chamolinian Soft Ball Association.

All proceeds, estimated at $5,000, will be used at SCC's general membership meeting luncheon on June 5, at the Saipan World Resort Hotel, when six Saipan students receive $12,000 in college scholarship awards. ***(SCC)***

BREWERS

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the finals after bowing to the youthful Fielders crew, however this time the latter's upset axe did not work against the mix of veteran and young Brewers players. The Fielders briefly tied the series after winning Game 2, 6-5, but the Brewers, who took Game 1 in a convincing fashion, 11-6, swept the last two to bag the championship.

In the title-clincher Game 4, the Brewers scored in the first four innings, while the Fielders made it to the board only in the first and third, leaving the eventual champions with a promising 8-3 advantage.

Jun Rabauliman gave the Brewers the first run at the top of the first off an error, while Manny Sablan made it a 2-0 lead off an RBI single. Sablan later hit an RBI double in the fourth before going out due to a hamstring injury. Mike Pangelinan and Marvin Kaipat also blasted one RBI double apiece in the fourth, while the Brewers' two other runs came from Mike Taitano in the second off an error and Pangelinan's sacrifice out in the third.

Patrick Tenorio Jr. drew first blood for the Fielders, advancing on an error and two wild pitches, and reaching home of a fielder's choice. The Fielders then had chances to add more runs, as they had the bases loaded with two outs, but Poland Masaharu flied out to left field.

In the second inning, Vince Cepeda struck out the Fielders first two batters, while Ton Guerrero caught a fly to close the bottom. Cepeda got one more strike in the third before facing fellow pitcher Shane Mendiola who nailed a two-run single to keep the Fielders afloat.

However, that seemed to be the end of the Fielders' offense, as they went run-less against the Brewers' steady defense in the next four innings before getting two worthless unearned runs in the last two.

Cepeda collected three more strikeouts from the fourth to seventh innings and with his teammates stepping up on defense no Fielders runners made it past second base in that spell.

The Fielders then stopped the bleeding at the bottom of the eighth with Jordan Pangelinan reaching home off an error, however the Brewers also got an unearned run at the top to keep the 5-run lead, 9-5. The Brewers made it a 12-5 advantage, going into the bottom of the last after Nokki Saralu posted an RBI single and Clifton Sillil drilled a two-run double at the top of the ninth.

Two fly outs from the Fielders at the bottom of the ninth moved the Brewers one out away from clinching the title. However, the Fielders got a break in the ensuing play with Ricardo Dela Cruz's grounder to left field hitting the cap of Nokki Saralu, who struggled picking up the ball. With the helter-skelter action, leadoff batter Marvin Ngeskebei managed to move to third and Patrick Tenorio to second and the former later made it home off a Pangelinan RBI walk.

However, the Brewers recovered from the erroneous defensive play, left three runners on base, and eventually wrapped up the series when second baseman Diego Camacho ran after a hit from Mendiola just a few feet away from first base, caught the leather, and threw to Sillil for the third out.

Meanwhile, the SML's name was changed to SBL, as the rechristened Saipan Baseball League, Inc. sought membership into the International Baseball Federation.

SINGLES

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sions with Kevin Park, Jeremi Montenejo, Joyce Maverick, and A.J. Ortega in Group A and Almon Edralin, Panapa Peteru, Mark Apolinar and J. Park in Group B. Montenejo went on to win his first match, downing Maverick in three games, 19-21, 21-19, 21-18.

The women's singles has competitions in three classes, too with the C division match between Diane Francisco and Rowena Sison featured in he opening day and the former winning in straight games, 21-18, 21-16.

Joining Sison and Francisco in class C are Mykki Caracut, Havika Farro, and Lani Santos, while class A only has three players in defending champion Hannah Choi, Malou Malasarte, and Jen Savellano.

Class B has the most entries with eighth players and it is divided into two pools. Group A has Cris Obaldo, Toshiko Obata, Merlie Tolentino, and Cristy Villaflor, while Janelle Pangilinan, Jen Cardinio, Windy Fernandez, and Loyda Ito are in Group B.

Meanwhile, the mixed doubles competition also opened with two matches last Friday.

In the C division, Rose Lazaro and Celso Agui slipped past Farro and Kevin Park, 21-20, 20-21, 21-18, while Caracut and Edralin also eked out a victory against Sally Lee and Kang Yun Moo after three games, 21-19, 17-21, 21-13.

Matches in the IT&E tournament continued last Saturday and Sunday and results of these games will be reported later this week.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

of Thailand, 6-4, 6-4, in the other Final Four pairing.

The eventual champion and seeded pair was at the bottom half of the 12-team draw and drew a bye in the first round before eliminating Germany's Vivien Klein and Hong Kong's Chak Lam Chan, 6-2, 6-2, to boost its finals chances.

Asano and Hashimoto were unranked at the top half of the draw and first triumphed over the CNMI's Thea Minor and Australia's Hene Demiri, 6-0, 6-1, to advance to the quarterfinals where the Japanese stunned the No. 1 seeded tandem of siblings Isabella and Katrina Orteza of the Philippines, 6-3, 6-1.

Meanwhile, another Japanese bet won a doubles crown with Kennosuke Nouchi teaming up with Hong Kong's Chak Yin Chan in beating China's Yu Hao Lu and Hong Kong's Anthony Jackie Tang, 6-3, 3-6, 10-5.

The doubles win was a sort of redemption for Nouchi, who was seeded first in the boys U18 singles, but fell to the unranked Hyun Chung of Korea right in the first round, 6-2, 2-6, 4-6.

Nouchi and Chan, who got a bye in the first round, started their doubles bid with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Korea's Hongjun Lee and Thailand's Leo Vithoontien in the upper half of the bracket, 6-1, 6-1, and then got a free finals ticket after a walkover victory versus Korea's Hyuk Chung and the injured Yong Seak Jang.

In the lower half of the draw, the fourth-seeded pair of Lu and Tan was paired against Korea's Shangcheol Oh and Donghwi Shin and eked out a 6-3, 3-6 (10-8) win to march into the quarterfinals. Next up for Lu and Tan were finalist Francisco Adolfo Blanco Paris of Spain and Philip Westwood of Thailand and the ranked pair won anew, 6-4, 6-4, to make it to the title game.

31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Winners in the 31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center pose for a group during the awards ceremony at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe last Sunday.

Simon Maniacop smiles after getting his first place prizes in the All Events.

From left, Elena Soll, Lala Taitano, Yho Villavicencio, and Tess Fabie pose with their first place trophies in the team event.

All events first placer Diana Camacho shows her prizes.

Doubles champions Carol McKenzie, left, and Gloria Omechelang pose with their trophies.

Simon Maniacop, left, congratulates Raphael Zapanta after they won third place in the doubles competition.

Gina Sablan and Ron Cal show their runner-up prize in the doubles.

Singles champion Kathy Mersai poses for a photo.

Mother and daughter Diana, right, and Carrie Camaco receive their third place prize in doubles.

Doubles runners-up Raymond Angeles, left, and Richard Leong.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brewers bag SBL championship

The Tan Holdings Brewers pose with their trophies and Maggie Sablan (with pennant trophy) of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation during the awards ceremony for the 2013 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers wrapped up the title series in the 2013 Saipan Baseball League following a methodical 12-5 victory against the IP&E Fielders, in Game 4 last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers built an early lead and the Fielders failed to make headway in the homestretch, allowing the Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad to cap the season of SBL (formerly Saipan Major League) with two championships. The Brewers also took the pennant, winning a tiebreak game against 2012 champion Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees.

The Yankees missed a return trip to

See BREWERS on Page 26

Japanese dominate doubles in Marianas Open

Japan's Izumi Asano goes for a baseline return during her and Miyu Hashimoto semis match against Isabella and Katrina Orteza of the Philippines in the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships played last weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

The third-ranked pair of Yuri Katano and Mei Otsuka won the all-Japanese girls doubles finals in the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships played last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Katano and Otsuka defeated compatriot Izumi Asano and Miyu Hashimoto in the finals last Sunday, 6-3, 3-2 (retired). The Japan vs. Japan finale was arranged after Asano and Hashimoto prevailed over Palau's Ayana Rengiil and South Africa's Warona Mdlulwa in the semis last Saturday, 6-1, 6-0, and Katano and Otsuka downed the second seeded Angela Lim of Singapore and Emiri Vithoontien

See JAPANESE on Page 26

Singles sweeps mark the opening of IT&E tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three of the singles matches in the opening of the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex ended after only two games.

In the men's A singles, Jexler Caranto gave Daniel Shen a rude welcome, notching a 21-13, 21-20 victory. Shen moved up to the highest class of the men's division after debuting in class C early this year.

Duplicating Caranto's win via sweep in the men's A singles was Ferdie Arago, who defeated two-time champion Andrew Galvez in an early rematch of last year's title duel. Galvez retained the men's A singles crown he first won over Dick Guintu in 2011 after downing Arago in the finals last year, 21-16, 25-23.

Besides the men's A singles, the IT&E competition has two more divisions—classes B and C. Class B is divided into two brackets with Brandon Talania leading Group A, joining Jordan Pangilinan, J.P. Nopia, Ezekiel Macario, and Rodwealth Espana. Group B has Manatsu Omori, Chris Hilario, Jeff Riman, Daniel Shen, and Kanata Omori.

Men's C singles also has two divi-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jexler Caranto steps in for a return to Daniel Shen during their men's A singles game in the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

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